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Kent on Sunday

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Grammar schools may force pupils into multiple 11-plus tests

By Marijke Cox
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FEARS have been raised that grammar schools will start snubbing the Kent Test in favour of their own admission exams, forcing children to take several tests to secure a place.

According to Gravesend-based education expert Peter Read, evidence is growing that selective schools are fast becoming disillusioned with the current 11-plus test in Kent and Medway and are looking at other options.

Under Coalition education reforms, selective schools, like academies, have more control over admissions.

Problems seen with the current 11-plus system include children being intensively coached for exams – giving an unfair advantage – and some schools choosing to only accept pupils who gain the highest scores. There are also problems with over-subscription in some schools, while others are struggling to fill their classrooms.

There are now concerns that selective schools will start setting their own entrance tests and children will have to take several exams – one for each grammar they wish to apply to.

Mr Read said: "The main issue is the growing feeling across grammar schools that the Kent Test is not fit for purpose. I think we've got to the point where schools are realising they can do their own thing.

"My fear is that we could see schools setting their own entrance tests and children having to take several tests.

"KCC have got to come up with something that will co-ordinate the system, even if this means a standard test with different pass marks for each school."

Mr Read urged grammar schools to

Continued on page 2

AN OLYMPIC JOB

STICKING AT IT: Natalie Seymour on her training regime for victory - **SEE INSIDE**

CRIME

Tappin case 'wall of silence'

THE son of Christopher Tappin, the Kent businessman who was extradited to the United States, has revealed the "wall of silence" he is facing as he tries to get help from the Prime Minister.

Neil Tappin says he has even started to question the morality of the Government. **PAGE 3**

TRANSPORT

'No more HGVs on rural roads'

KENT County Council is trying to end the blight of lorries ending up stuck in narrow rural roads. And the Freight Transport Association has also challenged the sat nav companies to sharped up their act. The problem is made worse by the large number of foreign lorries on Kent's roads. **PAGE 11**

SPORT

KCCC warned of tough times

DESPITE Kent County Cricket Club announcing an operating profit of £188,000 for 2011, honorary treasurer Simon Phillips has warned of a troubled future. He said: "Whilst our figures are better this year, difficult times lie ahead, with no shortage of very pessimistic predictions." **PAGE 78**

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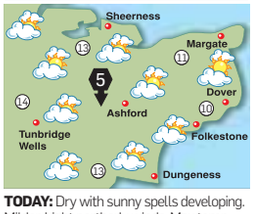

TODAY: Dry with sunny spells developing. Milder. Light northerly winds. Max temp 12-15C (54-59F). **TONIGHT:** dry with clear spells. Chilly. Min temp 4-7C (39-45F).

TODAY'S HIGH TIDE (Metres)

Dover	00.30	7.1	12.50	6.9
Margate	01.31	5.0	13.55	4.8
St Mary's	06.28	6.0	18.49	5.9

WEEK AHEAD

Monday	Max 13C	Min 5C
Tuesday	Max 12C	Min 3C
Wednesday	Max 14C	Min 2C
Thursday	Max 15C	Min 4C
Friday	Max 14C	Min 4C
Saturday	Max 13C	Min 3C

Information supplied by MeteoGroup

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'Schools are looking at doing things their own way now'

Continued from front page

"keep as far as possible to the concept of a single test, in the interests of children".

In west Kent, the 'super-selective' Judd School, Skinners School and Tonbridge Grammar School accept only the highest achievers in the Kent Test.

Judd School pushed its entry mark up to 418, where the maximum possible score is 420.

Mr Read said this was unfair on "ordinary" children trying to secure a place at a grammar school.

Both the girls' and boys' grammars in Dover already run their own Dover Test, offering an alternative means of access to their schools to ensure they could fill their classrooms. This has had no impact on the girls' grammar, which is one of the top achieving schools in the country.

Mr Read said: "Schools are looking at doing things their own way now. Simon Langton (in Canterbury) has just agreed to give priority to boys scoring more than 365. It means boys in Canterbury who pass the Kent Test won't be able to get into their local grammar school. It will cause displacement in the system."

A KCC spokeswoman said schools could only set their own admission tests if they were their own admission authority, like academies. She also stated that the council had recently proposed a review of the current selection process.

She added: "KCC believes that it is simpler for families and for schools if only one system, from registration to the sending out of results, is used consistently across the county.

"At present all Kent grammar schools who select their intake at age 11 use Kent's assessment process, even though they are not required to. We are not seeing any increase in grammar schools setting their own tests. If this was to happen, co-ordinating offers of secondary school places would become more complicated and time consuming.

"In terms of pupil welfare, the more 11-plus selection processes there are, the more probable it is that children will be required by their parents to take part in more than one."

In Medway, both the girls' and boys' Chatham grammars are looking to offer places to children in 2013 who pass the Kent Test. Currently, Medway schools only accept those who have passed the Medway Test. The two schools will also consider alternative evidence of grammar ability for late applicants.

A Medway Council spokeswoman said the change would mean the schools could accept additional children but she stressed it was unlikely to have a significant impact on children living in the Medway towns.

She said: "As all Medway grammar schools are academies, this means that they are responsible for setting their own admissions arrangements.

"All of Medway's grammar schools use the Medway Test to select children for entry. None set their own test and we are not aware of any that are looking to do so."

Cracks continue to widen in Kent's grammar system

OPINION
BY PETER READ

Independent Education Adviser

PARENTS of Kent children applying for secondary schools learned their allocated schools last week. Overall figures were similar to last year, although the number of children given none of their choices rose from 413 to 443.

As usual, west Kent is the main problem area (not to overlook other hotspots), although the difficulties are clearly more pronounced this year, especially amongst children qualified for grammar schools.

All three of the 'super-selectives' – Judd School, Skinners School and Tonbridge Grammar School – saw their baseline Kent Test score for entry rise, Judd requiring a record marks aggregate of 418 points (maximum possible 420), and even then some with this score did not gain admission.

There are three main reasons for the increase: the intensive coaching culture in west Kent (especially from the private schools chasing grammar school places) is seeing more children passing and also gaining high scores; more children from outside Kent crossing the boundary this year, although we don't yet know the schools they went to; and the economic climate seeing a fall in admissions to several private schools, putting more pressure on grammar schools.

Girls appear to have lost out in the south, including Pembury and Langton Green, while many boys around north Sevenoaks and Riverhead have not been offered any grammar school place. Some have been allocated to the Knole Academy in Sevenoaks, which has opened an additional class planning to make it a grammar school stream.

Many villages to the north through to Dartford are affected. Dartford Grammar School is only offering local places to boys living in the town itself, with most of the remainder taken up by boys from south east London right through to Lewisham (the train journey is easy) who achieve highest scores. The cut-off again reaching a record, of 414 points.

Meanwhile Dartford Girls and Gravesend Boys were not able to take all qualified children in their hinterlands.

As the Kent 11-plus selects just 25 per cent of the children from across selective parts of Kent, the increase in the west is balanced by fewer successes in the east, leaving several grammar schools there with vacancies.

I believe these trends are making the concept of a common test with common pass mark impossible to maintain, especially as grammar schools have new freedoms to choose their own admission rules, some setting higher pass marks than the standard, hastening the break-up of the system.

Kent County Council is now looking at alternatives that address some of the issues above, but anything new will have to be by consensus as the authority now has no power to impose solutions.

My fear is individual schools will be tempted to set their own entrance tests, leading to the dreadful outcome we see around the M25, as parents drive their children to different grammar school tests every Saturday through September and October.

Slightly more sensible solutions may include a common test with differing pass marks for each school, or perhaps an additional paper of a more difficult standard to discriminate between most able children.

Another possibility is the proposal for a disused school site in Sevenoaks to be adapted as an annexe to two current grammar schools (one boys and one girls), although legal problems surrounding this are complex.

There is also a competing proposal for a church free-school on the site whose formal proposal has been submitted to government, and would attract considerable government funding.

Meanwhile, the time bomb of rising pupil numbers, especially in Tunbridge Wells, is spreading through the primary schools, creating intense pressure on local schools – and secondary schools within a few years.

Sadly, government policy has meant there is now no planning authority to resolve these issues and we are destined to see more such problems in the future as the cracks widen.

■ **There is more information available on all these topics at www.kentadvice.co.uk.**

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CRIME

Son questions government's morals while extradited father left in US jail

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

THE Government has failed businessman Christopher Tappin who is languishing in an American jail, says his son who is battling to convince the Prime Minister to take the case seriously.

Neil Tappin said he had been met by a "wall of silence" from David Cameron and Home Secretary Theresa May and admitted he had started to question the morality of a government that could turn its back in such a way.

"I've written to them both, but they don't seem to be taking this seriously," he said.

"When they were in opposition they vowed to address the extradition treaty, but now they're in power they are dragging their heels. It makes me question the morality of our government."

Christopher Tappin was extradited to America two weeks ago after voluntarily surrendering himself at Heathrow airport.

The 65-year-old, from Orpington, is accused of conspiring to export batteries for Iranian missiles, something he vehemently denies.

He admits arranging the shipment of the batteries, but states he is the victim of a sting by the FBI framing him for conspiracy.

The shipping transaction to Iran, which was undertaken by Mr Tappin on behalf of a US Government front company, made him just $500.

Campaigners have questioned why a wealthy man with no criminal record would risk everything for such a paltry sum.

FLIGHT RISK: Christopher Tappin was denied bail

Mr Tappin appeared in a Texas court for his bail hearing last week – shackled and after being kept in a cage for hours.

The judge refused him bail on the grounds he was a "flight risk".

Mr Tappin, a former president of the Kent Golf Union, is being kept in isolation in a Texas prison and is only let out of his cell for one hour a day.

His 30-year-old son said: "He's coping really well. Not many have as much strength as he has.

"What's difficult is the lack of contact we have had with him. He called us at 3am on Sunday, but that was the last time.

"He had money when he went to America, but that was taken off him so he has nothing to make calls. It's very difficult having zero contact – we don't know how he is or what's going on.

"He was refused bail on the grounds he is a flight risk and dangerous to society – they think he's some sort of wiz on the computer.

"How can he be a risk? He surrendered himself at Heathrow, he has no money, no passport, he's 65 – how is he a danger to people?

"One of the big issues here is the way he is being treated. I believe he is innocent, but there will be people who think there is no smoke without fire. But whether you think he is innocent or not, he doesn't deserve to be treated this way."

His father – who requested to be put in isolation – is due to be moved to a cell where he will have more contact with other people.

He is appealing the bail decision and will appear in court in around 10 days.

Ukip leader and MEP Nigel Farage, from Sevenoaks, is an old friend of Mr Tappin's.

He has launched a government e-petition calling for David Cameron to debate the US-UK extradition treaty with Barack Obama when he meets with him next week in Washington.

So far the petition has almost 4,000 signatures. It needs 100,000 to secure a debate in Parliament.

■ **See Opinion on page 28 to read MEP Nigel Farage's view on the extradition case.**

NEWS IN BRIEF

£50k sewage flood fine

SOUTHERN Water has been fined £50,000 after it admitted failures that led to more than 60 properties in Herne Bay being flooded with sewage in August, 2010. The properties, mainly basement flats, were flooded with up to 4ft of sewage which backed up from the King's Hall pumping station when it failed to deal adequately with a period of heavy rainfall. The company is in the process of compensating those affected by the incident, and has already paid out £763,000.

More sheep virus cases

KENT sits at the top of the league table for cases of Schmallenberg virus. New stats from the Government found there are now 20 cases of affected sheep and one cow. Kent remains the worst hit county with 21 cases followed by East Sussex, Norfolk, Suffolk and West Sussex. The virus is believed to have entered the UK via infected midges. It causes ewes to produce deformed lambs, as well as stillborns. A vaccine could still be at least two years away.

Pond deaths drug test

POLICE investigating the deaths of 17-year-old Hugo Wenn and 25-year-old Daniel Lloyd in a pond in Canterbury in January, say toxicology test show both men had methoxetamine, also known as MXE, and alcohol in their bodies at time of death. Post mortems carried out on the pair previously revealed that they both died from drowning. Methoxetamine is a derivative of ketamine and has been described as a designer drug that has been used recreationally on the dance scene. Police investigating the case say they are not treating the deaths as suspicious.

AVIATION

MP confident a new buyer can be found as Manston goes up for sale

MANSTON Airport has been put up for sale by its New Zealand owner, Infratil, leaving the future of around 100 staff uncertain.

On Thursday the company announced it intends to sell its two UK airports – Manston and Prestwick, Glasgow – because it wants to "refocus its investment profile".

But MP Sir Roger Gale says he is optimistic about the future of the Thanet airport as "more than one serious player" was interested in acquiring the hub.

Airport chief executive Charles Buchanan said: "This represents an opportunity for Manston to build upon the improvements Infratil has already made, and attract new investment into the airport and stimulate the growth needed to make it a success in the future.

"For now, and during this process, it will be business as usual for the airport. I certainly view this as an opportunity to work with new investors whose development strategies and investment profiles more closely match the needs of businesses such as ours at this time."

Analysts say Infratil has taken the decision to prioritise its other business interests – which include electricity generation, retailing, and natural gas, as well as transport provision in New Zealand.

Accountant and finance company PricewaterhouseCoopers has been appointed as adviser to assist in the sale.

PwC partner, Coolin Desai, said: "Manston represents a strategic opportunity for an investor in light of the well-documented congestion affecting all major airports serving London and the South East, with a runway capable of accommodating large aircraft including 747s."

The company added it was too early to release details of any price for the airport, and its first duty was to make investors aware it was on the market.

Sir Roger described the move as "a great opportunity", saying: "I understand there is more than one serious player interested in the possibility of taking over and developing the passenger and cargo potential of Manston.

"With the ongoing debate about the future of aviation in the South East in general and of the UK as an international hub in particular, it is clearly vital that additional capacity is brought on stream in the immediate future.

"Manston offers the facility to take some of the pressure of Heathrow, via Gatwick and that facility needs to be utilised by an operator and/or airline that will make the most of the, at present, underused airport.

"The job creation potential of Manston remains very considerable indeed, and I hope that a swift and successful transfer to a new and dynamic owner can be achieved in the immediate future."

The airport has recently installed facilities to enable it to fly in horses, as well as being given extra slots during July and August as part of plans to prevent overcrowding at airports during the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

It has also put forward expansion plans which have included night flights – an unpopular move with some residents who fear noise disruption.

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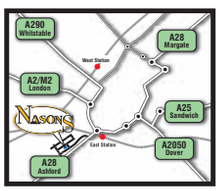

Pictures: PAUL JERREAT

TOURISM

You really can't afford to miss this weekend's Travel and Leisure Show

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

THIS weekend sees the Archant KOS Media Travel and Leisure Show take place at the Dover Cruise Terminal – highlighting the great attractions of Kent and beyond.

Now in its fifth year, the free celebration of all that is best in tourism has become established as the main event in the county for planning a holiday, whether at home or abroad.

Attractions, events, heritage, cuisine and accommodation are all highlighted by the vast range of exhibitors.

This year will be an exciting 12 months for Britain, full of activities, including the Dickens bicentenary, The Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

So it is a chance for the county's visitors and residents alike to revel in the many celebrations and festivals taking place at some of its best-loved attractions and locations.

This will include Olympic Torch Relay overnight stops in Dover and Maidstone, Dickens Festivals in Rochester and Broadstairs, and the many castles, gardens and other attractions with royal connections or that are hosting special events around the Diamond Jubilee.

The show is the ideal opportunity to get a picture of what is happening in the Garden of England, as well as many attractions in Sussex and Essex and across the Channel.

Saturday (11am-3pm) is trade day, focusing on group travel, with tours for businesses, clubs, schools and societies to meet with exhibitors and find out what is available for them. It's the best chance to sit down and discuss their exact needs with exhibitors.

Sunday (10am-4pm) will see a more family-orientated day, with children's events including facepainting and a conjuror.

Event manager Liz Hare said: "The last four years have received tremendous support, enabling us to take the show from strength to strength.

"We hope you enjoy your visit, and find it entertaining as well as informative.

"Exhibitors will also be on hand to answer any questions you may have about the thousands of wonderful travel and leisure opportunities you will come across, so feel free to browse at your leisure.

"There are many exclusive show discounts available too, so keep your eyes out for some great offers."

A show guide will provide information about timings of presentations that visitors can attend covering a wide range of subjects. Details will also be posted around the exhibition area, and visitors should listen out for announcements on the day.

As always, there are some great prizes to be won, and organisers are grateful once again to Fred. Olsen Cruise Line for providing a magnificent cruise as the main prize.

A number of other prizes have also been generously donated by exhibitors and a draw will be made after the show.

Contestants should remember to place their tickets into the prize draw box at the entrance by 3.30pm on Sunday. Entry forms can also be collected at the reception desk.

Liz added: "Here in Kent we are also spoilt for choice when it comes to crossing the Channel, and there are some great ideas for short breaks.

"Further information about the wonderful opportunities available can be found within The France Zone featuring many of the tourist attractions that country has to offer.

"There is something for everyone at the Travel and Leisure Show and plenty of experts on hand to help you find out more."

■ **See www.thetravelandleisureshow.co.uk for details.**

CROWDS: The show has become a popular event for all your holiday needs

ENERGY

Power station closure announced

ENERGY company E.ON is closing Kingsnorth Power Station, near Hoo, in a year – leaving 123 workers facing redundancy.

The plant, on the Medway Estuary, made nationwide headlines in 2008, when it became the focus of climate change protestors calling for an end to coal-powered stations.

But now the German electricity firm says EU legislation has forced it to close the plant.

An E.ON spokesman said: "Kingsnorth's closure is a result of the EU's large combustion plant directive legislation which requires it to close after generating for 20,000 hours from January 1, 2008, or at the end of 2015, whichever comes first."

The company says the 1,940MW coal-fired power station, originally commissioned in 1970, will have reached the end of its allocated running hours by March next year.

The company has also pulled out of plans to build two new coal-burning power stations at the site that would have used carbon capture technology (CCS) to lower emissions.

Kingsnorth was one of two schemes shortlisted as part of the Government's competition to build the UK's first commercial carbon capture scheme, but bosses say in the current economic climate that is not commercially viable.

The GMB Union represents workers at the site and its engineering construction officer Phil Whitehurst said: "The news that Kingsnorth power station is closing is devastating to the local community who depend on the station for employment."

However, environmental groups have welcomed the announcement of the closure.

But Kent Green Party spokesman Steve Dawe said: "Carbon capture is an expensive thing for the energy industry. This is quite frankly an admission of failure to advance the technology."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Drugs in sweets 'hoax'

KENT Police have quashed a rumour circulating among schoolchildren that crystal meth has been added to sweets. The rumour suggests certain sweets, nicknamed 'Strawberry Quick' or 'Strawberry meth', contain the chemical methamphetamine. Drugs officers are keen to point out the rumour is just a hoax. Insp Ian Sandwell said: "The rumour around crystal meth being put in sweets is an urban myth. It is a hoax which has been circulating for many years."

Fair fuel prices protest

CAMPAIGNERS fighting to persuade the Government to cut fuel duty on petrol and diesel, descended on Westminster this week for a mass lobby. The protest group is led by Fair Fuel UK, which was launched by Peter Carroll from Folkestone. A spokesman said: "Last year, we saw off rises that would have put another 9p per litre on the cost of every litre of petrol and diesel. That was important, but petrol and diesel remain far too expensive."

Colonel Tim Collins

LAST week we reported that Col Tim Collins, who hopes to be the Tory candidate in the election to choose the county's Police and Crime Commissioner in November, had "been talking to the Kent MPs". He has asked us to point out that the only Kent MPs he has met are Adam Holloway and Julian Brazier. The published information was provided to us by his office, and we are happy to put the record straight.

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News

A CHANCE DISCOVERY: The Ferrari was found languishing in a barn in the Canterbury area, it had been left there since the mid 1970s

AUCTION

Ferrari sold for £100,000 despite rusting away in a barn for 36 years

By Chris Murphy
ediotrial@kosmedia.co.uk

A CLASSIC Ferrari once belonging to Hollywood film producer Dino de Laurentiis has been sold at auction after being discovered rusting in a barn.

The exotic sports car has just been sold at a Bonhams' auction for £100,000, but needs at least that again spent on it to bring it back to life.

The 1961 Ferrari 250GTE 2+2 Series 1 coupé proved irresistible to an anonymous phone bidder – and it turned out they were so determined to buy it, they hadn't even seen the state it was in.

This 250 is especially important as it is the first of just three series of the model before Ferrari stopped manufacturing them in 1963.

The car had been languishing in a barn in the Canterbury area since 1976, and appeared at the saleroom pretty much in the state it was found.

The Ferrari was originally sold new to Roman Edmund Hans Bacher who then passed it on to the famous movie producer.

It was imported from Rome in 1963, when it was bought by an Eva Michelson of Park Lane, London, said Bonhams.

In 1967 she sold it to her Lambeth-based doctor, Hector Anderson, and it was later inherited by his daughter.

The left-hand drive, 3.0-litre V12 motor was put in the barn, and there it stayed.

Bonhams said: "The daughter inherited the car more than a decade ago from her late father.

"He only drove it for seven or eight years and it was last roadworthy in 1975. Because of this it only has 49,000 miles on the clock.

"The current owner had planned to have it restored, but never got round to it.

"She took the decision to sell the car in the hope a Ferrari enthusiast will be able to appreciate its potential and bring it back to life. It will cost the best part of £100,000 to restore it to its former glory.

"You are talking about £50,000 alone just for a Ferrari 250GTE engine."

De Laurentiis made almost 150 films including Barbarella, Serpico, and Death Wish, and won two Oscars. He died in 2010 at his home in Beverly Hills, California, aged 91.

His Ferrari's coachwork was by classic design house Pininfarina. Because of its condition, Bonhams was expecting around £50,000 for the car, which it said was "a well-preserved barn find ripe for sympathetic restoration". The total paid with the auction fees was £101,180 thanks to the engine and chassis numbers 2647 matching, something all serious collectors insist on.

The Gran Turismo car was Ferrari's first four-seater. Moving the engine, gearbox and steering gear forward and the fuel tank back left sufficient room for two occasional rear seats.

The auction house said the seller prefers to keep the exact details of the the car's Kent history a secret.

Accompanying documentation consists of the original UK buff logbook, disc and MoT.

A spokesman said: "Although its history is not entirely complete, this well-preserved 'barn find' nevertheless represents a wonderful opportunity to acquire an original and untouched early Ferrari 250GTE, ripe for sympathetic restoration by a fortunate new owner."

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MEMORIAL

Emotional church service marks 25 years since tragedy on-board the Herald of Free Enterprise

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

TWENTY-FIVE years ago this week, the nation went into mourning as the horrors of the Herald of Free Enterprise disaster began to unfold.

Killing 193 passengers and crew, the tragedy – one of the worst disasters of our time – sent shockwaves through the country as images of the stricken ship and faces of distraught survivors emerged.

The ferry capsized just minutes into her sailing to Dover from Zeebrugge on March 6, 1987, when her bow doors were left open.

Bereaved families and survivors gathered on Tuesday for an emotional service at St Mary's Church in Dover to mark the 25th anniversary. Around 300 people attended to pay their respects and remember those who perished.

The Bishop of Dover, the Right Revd Trevor Willmott, said the tangled images of the sunken ship would always be with people.

"Each of us has personal memories of that March day 25 years ago," he said.

"Some of us whose loved ones were cruelly taken from us, sadness and sorrow has been undiminished by the passing of time. The scars from that day, physical, emotional and spiritual, will remain until the end of our lives."

He paid tribute to the crew members and emergency services who fought to save passengers.

Picture: PAUL JERREAT

NEVER TO BE FORGOTTEN: Families and survivors of the disaster attended a service in Dover to pay their respects to the 193 who died on March 6, 1987

"Their unceasingly tireless efforts must never be forgotten," said the Bishop of Dover.

During the service, survivor Andrew Parker – who was awarded the George Medal for his bravery during the disaster – gave a reading.

He had been on the ship with his wife and daughter for a day-trip as a special offer from a national newspaper. When the ferry capsized he used his body as a human bridge to help his family and other passengers escape.

Mr Parker's family survived the tragedy, but for some of the crews who battled to save passengers – professional until the bitter end – they were not so fortunate.

Ann Mulligan, who worked on the sister ship Spirit of Free Enterprise, said 12 of her friends died trying to save people.

The 74-year-old, from Deal, said: "We were coming out of Calais when we heard what was happening on the Herald. I knew 12 people working on that ferry and they all died. They died saving lives; they didn't desert a sinking ship, they stayed there until the end."

Mrs Mulligan said one of her colleague's sons was supposed to have been working on the Herald, but had swapped shifts at last minute.

"It was terrible, she was panicking. We didn't really know anything to start with," she said. "It had a terrible impact on the company and everyone who worked there. It wasn't the same after that."

During the service the names of the 193 victims were read out and the congregation was given stars to write messages on, which will be transcribed into a book of remembrance.

Twenty-five white roses were then planted in the memorial garden on the seafront in Dover and floral tributes cast from the Prince of Wales pier to remember those who died.

Kent MEP Peter Skinner said he would never forget that day 25 years ago.

"We must remember the lessons of that disaster and make sure it never happens again," he said.

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LENLEYS

DRAWN TO HELP OUT: Art from stars such as Sir Frederick Forsyth and Hannah Firmin (inset) will go up for auction on eBay

CHARITY

Stars inspired to create art for literacy trust fundraiser

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

KENT celebrities have created their own exclusive artwork for a charity auction called Pushing the Envelope which raises much-needed funds for the National Literacy Trust.

Those from the county taking part include author Sir Frederick Forsyth from Ashford, Ann Summers boss Jacqueline Gold from Biggin Hill, Dartford-born artist Sir Peter Blake, and Hannah Firmin from Canterbury, the daughter of Bagpus creator Peter Firmin.

It's an eclectic mix of prominent names from the fields of art, design, fashion, television, theatre, film, sport and literature.

Organisers say the celebs got creative by designing envelopes that will be sold to the public to help raise money for the Trust.

This is the seventh running of the campaign which see the transformation of everyday envelopes into exclusive works of art which will be sold on eBay.

Others taking part include Dames Judi Dench and Shirley Bassey, Olympian Sally Gunnell, and pop star Adam Ant.

This year, the organisers selected the theme of Inspiration giving extra insight into the creative minds of the celebrity supporters.

The National Literacy Trust works in disadvantaged communities across the UK, helping people to gain literacy skills.

Hannah Firmin said: "I'm very happy to be involved with this imaginative project which aims to raise awareness of the problem of illiteracy and works towards helping people to overcome this huge disadvantage in life.

"As an illustrator I find it hard to imagine how lacklustre life would be without the printed word, to say nothing of the problems one would face daily."

And Jacqueline Gold, who runs the Ann Summers and Knickerbox chains, added: "This is a fantastic charity which I am proud to support through their unique Pushing The Envelope campaign.

"I had lots of fun designing my envelope and hope that it helps to raise a great amount of money for this wonderful charity."

Sir Frederick Forsyth said: "To be able to read, write and converse fluently are like a great door; unlock it, open it and walk through. You enter a marvellous world where nothing is impossible for you. That is why Pushing the Envelope is a terrific charity to support."

The auction runs on eBay from March 12-22.

Pictures: DAVID PARRY/PA WIRE

ARMED FORCES

WWII hero's Japan trip to lay wreath at grave of cabin mate

By Ed Hill
ed.hill@archant.co.uk

A 90-year-old fighter pilot is making a pilgrimage to Japan to visit the grave of his wartime comrade.

Flight Commander Keith Quilter, from Tenterden, was a Navy pilot in World War Two on the aircraft carrier HMS Formidable.

The ship had been sent to the Pacific to attack Japanese aerodromes in preparation for an invasion.

During a mission Mr Quilter's cabin mate and fellow pilot Walter Stradwick was killed.

Mr Quilter said: "He went into the ground and I saw a horrible great mass of flames alongside me. Then my wingman said his oil pressure was dropping and so the fourth pilot had to escort him back to the carrier. This meant I was on my own so I joined the tail end of my commanding officer's group to attack a different aerodrome.

"I want to go and pay my respects to my cabin mate. I found out where his grave is and I'm going to leave a wreath there. I'm also hoping to somehow trace his family. I'm going to take a photograph of his grave and would like them to be able to see it."

The veteran's trip in May, which will include the visit to Yokohama War Cemetery, is thanks to a grant from the Big Lottery Fund as part of its Heroes Return 2 programme.

He said: "That mission was the one that caused me the most personal loss. When your close friend and cabin mate is shot down and you get back to the ship and walk back into an empty cabin room, that is quite something."

THEN AND NOW: Tenterden's Flight Commander Keith Quilter

Mr Quilter had an eventful wartime career. He served as a pilot in the Navy from 1942-46 and rejoined in 1947, leaving in 1952. During the war he flew many death-defying missions in his F4U Corsair fighter bomber, at first in attacks on the German battleship Tirpitz before joining the British Pacific Fleet.

His numerous brushes with death include being shot down off the Japanese coast while attacking a destroyer in a harbour, and two Kamikaze crashes on his ship.

He was shot down attacking a destroyer inside a harbour on a small Japanese island.

He said: "Because it was on the inside of the harbour wall we had to approach from the land, which had high hills. We attacked by coming in low over the water and released the bombs before we passed over the ship so they hit its side.

"There was a gun position there and I got hit. My engine suddenly stopped so I had no choice but to ditch. I had enough momentum to get to the main estuary to ditch. I had to open the hood quickly before the plane sank, get into my dingy and paddle away to the open sea."

The pilot had the good luck to be rescued by an American submarine sent to support Allied pilots. He spent three weeks on board before the Americans dropped the atom bomb on Hiroshima, ending the war.

On his visit he also wants to remember Robert 'Hammy' Hampton Gray, a Canadian pilot who was also on board HMS Formidable. He was one of the last Canadians to die in the war and was awarded a Victoria Cross.

Mr Quilter said: "We were all such young and cocky fighter pilots. But by the time VJ day came I think half the squadron had been lost. Walter was a lovely guy and Hammy was also full of fun in the mess."

The veteran has been given £3,700 by the lottery to make the trip. The Heroes Return 2 programme is being extended so more veterans can make journeys back to battlegrounds.

Peter Wanless, chief executive of the Big Lottery Fund, said: "The stories we hear from our veterans are incredible and extremely humbling.

"We owe them a huge debt of gratitude."

■ **All the news and sport at www.yourashford.co.uk.**

ACCIDENT

Two in hospital after A20 crash closes road

TWO people were left in hospital after a crash on the coastbound A20 at Swanley on Wednesday at 10am. The accident between the A223 turn off and the M25 at junction three involved a white Mercedes Sprinter and a green/blue Fiat Punto. Two people were released from hospital with minor injuries. A fire and rescue service crew from London attended as well as the air ambulance. The A20 was closed till the afternoon.

SAFETY

Motorists targeted at notorious blackspot

BAD driving, chaotic parking and abuse towards a lollipop lady in Church Road, Willesborough, have been targeted. Officers from Kent Police, Kent and Medway Safety Camera Partnership and Kent County Council targeted motorists flouting the law. The area is a notorious blackspot for illegal and dangerous parking during the school run. Motorists were also stopped for not wearing seatbelts and talking on mobile phones.

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ROADS

Freight group backs plans to get HGVs off rural roads

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

MOVES to keep heavy lorries off the county's small rural roads have been welcomed by the leading HGV lobby group.

Kent County Council says too often residents in rural areas are confronted with lorries getting stuck and blocking roads.

And the Freight Transport Association has issued a challenge to sat nav makers, asking them to refine the routes they choose for HGVs.

Head of policy at the Tunbridge Wells-based FTA, Natalie Chapman, said: "It is important sat nav makers get on side with this one and ensure the routes their devices select do not use roads that simply are not suitable for heavy vehicles.

"Clearly we cannot completely eliminate HGVs on rural roads. People still need their white goods and sofas delivered, plus pubs and shops need their stock. But what we are keen to see is every heavy vehicle that doesn't need to be on a country road avoids country roads."

KCC said many communities in the county suffer as a result of our role as the gateway to Europe and the associated cross-Channel traffic.

Its action plan seeks to work with business to reduce the pressure on rural communities without damaging the county's economy.

Later this month officials will consult with business and strategic partners on proposals that include developing route maps electronically for business to use when planning their deliveries; working with the FTA to ensure the impact of freight is minimised; and reviewing the roads signing strategy to ensure the most suitable routes are flagged up correctly.

The public are also being asked for their opinions, and to voice any concerns on freight issues.

KCC cabinet member for environment and highways Cllr Bryan Sweetland said: "Residents in many towns and villages are familiar with lorries taking the wrong road, getting stuck, and, in some cases, damaging buildings.

"Many of these are foreign drivers and the work we have been doing as part of our Freight Action Plan is around making sure drivers use the most appropriate routes.

"We know we will not be able to influence all lorry drivers, but there are ways we can improve the use of our roads, for example by providing online route mapping for delivery and logistics firms, and we will now consult these with other groups.

"This is not about a blanket ban on lorries because companies and businesses have to use our roads and we do not want to limit business. We want to make sure we keep Kent moving by putting HGVs on the best available routes."

KCC is also working with district councils – the planning authorities for housing developments – to make sure conditions are imposed on developers to minimise the impact on the local road network and nearby homes and businesses.

OFF BEATEN TRACK: Sat nav makers can help rural road problem

TOURISM

City in death wish top 10

CANTERBURY has been voted one of the top 10 UK cities Britons want to visit before they die.

Top of the list issued by Travelodge after a survey of 5,000 Britons was London, with Canterbury at number five, after Edinburgh, Bath and Liverpool.

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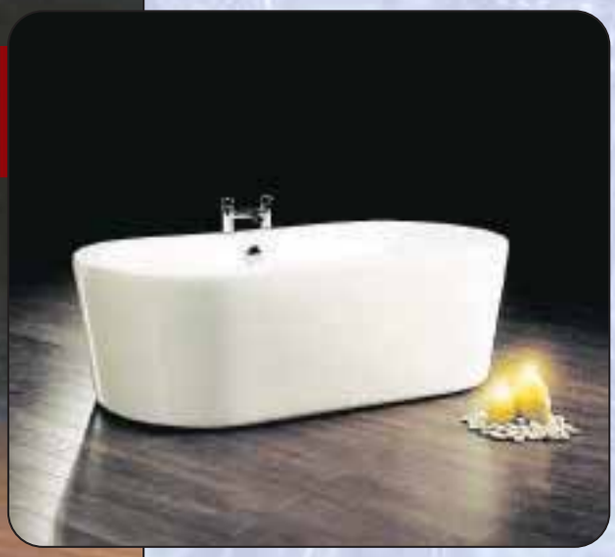

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News

CRIME

Stalking law change taken too long, says victim's mum

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

A HEARTBROKEN mother whose daughter was shot dead by an obsessed stalker said it should not have taken this long for the introduction of new legislation.

Tricia Bernal, from Groombridge, Tunbridge Wells, said she was elated the landmark moment had arrived, but admitted her happiness was mixed with outrage due to the time it had taken for authorities to act.

After years of debate, David Cameron announced on Thursday that the Government was to create a specific stalking law to protect the tens of thousands of victims affected.

It follows a parliamentary inquiry, which found the existing law for stalking and harassment "not fit for purpose" prompting MPs and peers to demand action.

The current law is the same level as an anti-social behaviour order and police have had their hands tied over when to take action against a stalker. Only two per cent of stalkers are jailed.

Ms Bernal has campaigned for changes through the charity Protection Against Stalking, which she set up alongside the mothers of other victims.

Her 22-year-old daughter Clare (pictured) was shot dead in 2005 by 30-year-old Slovakian Michael Pech in Knightsbridge store Harvey Nicholls where she worked. The pair had dated for three weeks, but after it ended he became obsessed with the pretty beauty consultant.

Ms Bernal said: "It's wonderful this new law is coming in, but everything needs to be in place to ensure it works. There needs to be a treatment programme in place for offenders; support for stalking victims; we want to see good understanding of the issue from authorities and money pumped into training.

Pech had twice been arrested for stalking Miss Bernal and had also made a direct threat to kill her.

After their short relationship ended he started following her, pestering her with phone calls, standing outside her house and sending her with text messages.

He was arrested for breaking a restraining order and found guilty of harassment, but while awaiting sentence he went to Slovakia and bought a gun.

On September 13, 2005, just as Harvey Nichols was due to close, he walked up behind her and shot her four times in the head before turning the gun on himself.

Ms Bernal said: "It's been a long haul. The system didn't do anything for Clare. There is far more understanding now, but there is still a long way to go."

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It is important to tackle damp because ignoring it can store up serious problems and also pose potential health risks – especially if you have a medical condition such as asthma or rheumatism.

For years, people have tried to solve damp problems. Traditional methods included injecting chemical solutions but unfortunately this can involve contractors coming into your home, drilling into brickwork, and hacking off and replacing plaster.

The work can be messy, intrusive and your home will need redecorating once it has been done.

And despite all this upheaval, there is no guarantee that it will work in the long term. Chemical barriers tend to break down over time, and once this happens – that damp will be back.

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News

TRAVEL

Now you can shout 'I'm on the train' 100m below sea level

By Ed Hill
ed.hill@archant.co.uk

TRAVELLERS going through the Channel Tunnel will now be able to use their mobile phones and laptops while they speed below the seabed.

Eurotunnel has signed an agreement with French telecoms operators Bouygues Telecom, Orange SFR, and Free, to provide the service.

The €14 million project is the first of its kind in the world, and engineers will install 2G and 3G telephone systems so passengers on Le Shuttle and Eurostar trains can stay connected to the network.

The company says it has made the investment in time for the Olympic Games.

The technology will also offer a wi-fi service 100 metres below sea level for passengers travelling to Folkestone, Ashford or Ebbsfleet.

Nearly 20 million passengers travel through the 23 miles of tunnel every year. Currently there is a gap of around 20 minutes for passengers on Eurostar trains when they cannot get a signal.

TALK: Eurotunnel goes mobile

The installation of the mobile telecommunications service has been made possible while Eurotunnel installs new signalling equipment in the south-running (France to UK) tunnel.

A transmitter cable will be installed with optical repeaters placed every 750 metres to boost the signal.

However, passengers using the UK to France (North tunnel) will have to wait until after the Olympic Games to be able to use the service. British phone operators will then be installing their system in the tunnel.

Eurotunnel chairman Jacques Gounon, said: "The vital link between the UK and France is proud to commit to this investment which will enable the connection of peoples, nations and cultures in this time of instant communications."

South East Labour MEP Peter Skinner said: "As a regular Eurostar traveller I'm delighted to hear that a signal under the sea will soon be a reality.

"Many of us rely on mobile phones and the web to do our jobs and to stay in touch with friends and family. I know some will mourn the loss of one of the few places that had remained free of mobile phone chatter, but on the whole I think this is a positive step that will benefit travellers."

The announcement was some good news in a week when Eurostar services between London and the Continent were severely disrupted by a power fault in France.

Some passengers were delayed by up to nine hours after a sagging overhead cable meant trains had to be switched from high-speed lines to slower ones.

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News

HERITAGE

Iconic cooling towers to be blown up on Sunday

By Ed Hill
ed.hill@archant.co.uk

RICHBOROUGH Power Station's cooling towers are to be demolished this weekend after dominating the Thanet skyline for decades.

Permission to bring down the distinctive landmark was agreed by Thanet council in January, despite opposition from some residents.

The A256 Ramsgate Road, Sandwich Road and Richborough Way will be closed on Sunday morning for the demolition, with diversion routes in place via the A2 and A299 Thanet Way. Nearby footpaths will also be closed.

BFL Management Ltd, which manages the site, wants to flatten the towers so it can build an energy park. It is already the connection point to the National Grid for the Thanet offshore wind farm.

A spokesman for the company said: "The road closures will come into place at 8.45am and should hopefully be lifted by 9.15am. The times are not set in stone but we want to keep the closures to a minimum."

GOING: Richborough towers

Residents in nearby houses have been informed of the controlled explosions, but will not have to leave their homes.

The spokesman said: "The four structures – three cooling towers and a chimney – will be demolished in sequence, with the chimney last. There should be a three second gap between each so the whole thing should be over in about 60 seconds."

There is no official location for people to watch the demolition, although nearby coastal parks are expected to be a popular vantage point. If the demolition does not take place on Sunday it could be deferred to the next two Sundays.

The spokesman said they will not create an official event because of safety concerns.

Richborough Power Station originally opened in 1962. It burned more than three million tonnes of coal from the Kent mines until it was converted to use oil in 1971.

In 1989 it was converted to burn a new fuel called Orimulsion. The bitumen-based liquid was hoped to be a cheap alternative to oil but soon came under fire because of environmental concerns, and the power station closed in 1996.

Some residents have argued against the demolition, although English Heritage made no objection.

The Monkey Cage Gallery in Ramsgate will be holding an exhibition in April about people's memories of the towers.

■ **More news and sport at www.yourthanet.co.uk.**

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WILDLIFE

Wildlife group's proposal for land tax reform backed by Oscar-winning actress

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A SEISMIC change in the way land around the world is taxed could save many of our threatened species, claims a wildlife organisation that has the backing of actress Vanessa Redgrave and her son who has made a film on the issue.

Oscar-winner Redgrave is backing Wildwood, near Canterbury, because she wants to save the world's natural resources before they are completely plundered for profit.

As the Unicef Goodwill Ambassador she launched the Brighton Festival with a special screening of Wildwood's new documentary, The Killing Fields. It was shown to an audience of more than 1,000 of the biggest names in theatre and arts in the hope of stirring up more support for its aims.

Wildwood Trust's vision is to restore Britain's land to its natural state. This involves releasing large wild herbivores and developing conservation grazing systems to restore natural ecological processes to help Britain team with wildlife again.

After the screening, writer and broadcaster Polly Toynbee moderated a discussion about the issues raised by the film.

Wildwood Trust chief executive Peter Smith said said the film struck a chord with the audience and is determined to drive his message home attending another major screening in Brighton, at the town's Dome Theatre on May 3.

Ms Redgrave will be there, along with her director son Carlo Nero, who made the Wildwood film.

It will be followed by another discussion on the land tax changes Mr Smith proposes.

Joing them will be the debate chairman Professor Sir Richard Jolly from the United Nations and Unesco, along with contributors to the film including economist Fred Harrison, environmental lawyer Polly Higgins, and farmer and landowner Dr Duncan Pickard.

The Killing Fields documentary explores the fragile relationship between wildlife, land, taxation and law in Britain and Europe.

Mr Smith said it makes a powerful case for sweeping reforms and argues the only long-term solution to our conservation crisis is to put real value on nature's assets.

He said: Winston Churchill was a fan of the land value tax, but it was voted out by the House of Lords because they realised it was them who would suffer the most.

"A land tax would replace income tax. This means anyone who owned land would have to make the absolutely most of it to ensure they could afford it.

"Derelict buildings would be developed and my favourite part, farmers would stop trying to farm impossibly difficult land and that would be allowed to return to nature. If this happened around the world, it would save huge areas of land for nature."

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BACK TO NATURE: Actress Vanessa Redgrave (left) will be appearing at a showing of the Wildwood Trust's The Killing Fields featuring its chief executive Peter Smith (above)

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News

POLICE

Awards recognise the efforts of brave heroes

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

FROM being threatened with weapons to stamping out loutish behaviour – these are many problems the county's force has to deal with on a daily basis.

To celebrate their hard and often dangerous work, Kent Police Authority (KPA) held its annual awards ceremony, commending the unsung heroes who have made a difference to the lives of people living in the county.

KPA chairman Ann Barnes said the authority chose officers and staff who had performed outstanding acts in the line of duty: "I regularly hear about good work from the frontline and it always makes me proud, the award ceremony was our opportunity to acknowledge that work."

Sgt Gary Fittall, who retired last month, was handed the Lifetime Achievement Award for his 34 years in the force.

He spent 14 years running a roads policing response section where he had to face traumatic incidents. In 1999 his bravery shone through when he put himself in danger when trying to stop a suicidal man from taking his life on an M2 bridge.

ACHIEVER: Gary and Laura Fittall with Chief Constable Ian Learmonth and Ann Barnes

Sgt Fittall, from Maidstone, was injured in the line of duty in 2007 when he placed his vehicle at the back of a crash to protect those involved. His police car was hit and he suffered spine injuries, forcing him to take three weeks off work.

Thanet PCSO Alex Walker also stood out for his hard work, particularly when dealing with an offender who turned a loaded gun onto the 22-year-old and his colleague.

The officers managed to disarm the man and restrain him until police arrived.

Others were praised for their work in stamping out anti-social behaviour, assisting in turning the lives of vulnerable children around, and helping drive down crime in many of Kent's communities.

THE WINNERS

PCSO of the Year: Runner up Robert Dray
Winner Alex Walker
Team of the Year: Runner up PC Laura Sloan and PC Mark Nott
Winner Fighting Chance Judo Inclusion Programme
Police Officer of the Year: Runner up PC Chris Clancy
Winner PC Preston Frost
Community Warden of the Year: Runner up Martin Sherwood
Winner Dawn Riach-Brown
Outstanding Kent Police Staff: Runner up Karen Griffiths
Winner Julie Argent
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Lifetime Achievement Award: Gary Fittall

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CRUELTY

Welfare group warns of mounting crisis as horse owners leaving animals to die

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

AS the economy grips pockets ever-tighter, there are a growing number of horses with neglectful owners who are sometimes just leaving the animals to die where they fall.

This horrific picture shows the body of a horse the owner simply couldn't pay to care for any longer.

The RSPCA has found a growing number of horses are being neglected and needing to be taken into care. The situation is putting both the organisation and horse sanctuaries under increasing pressure.

The continual breeding by irresponsible owners and breeders is not helping either, officials said.

Some owners and traders buy or breed horses for which they cannot provide a substantial level of care, and then cannot sell in a declining market.

Horses are changing hands for as little as £5, before the new owner finds they can't afford to pay the high care costs.

Owners then expect organisations like the RSPCA to pick up the pieces, while charities receive criticism when they are not able to take each and every animal into their care.

Inquiries to take sick horses in to care are rocketing to such an extreme, groups normally happy to help are being overwhelmed.

RSPCA chief inspector Cathy Hyde said: "People who have made a living from breeding and selling horses are failing to acknowledge that the animals' value has dropped and they keep breeding, although they have nowhere to keep the horses and have not accounted for the high prices of hay, straw and feed.

"This has to stop. We have seen some ponies sold for as little as £5 and the horses change hands on multiple occasions, repeatedly compromising their health and welfare.

TRAGIC: Horses are left to die as owners cannot afford their bills

"The costs of euthanasia and gelding mean many owners are also failing to pay for these, leaving sick and old horses to suffer and die, and leading to indiscriminate breeding among unneutered horses.

"We are, quite honestly, struggling to keep up with what is a mounting crisis."

Nationally, there are more than 500 horses in RSPCA care, and the numbers in Kent are also growing. It can cost around £5,000 to nurse a sick horse back to health.

The RSPCA said the situation was becoming impossible to manage and asked the public to do more to take in unwanted horses.

> **It can be heart breaking for our officers to try to improve horses' lives within the law, only to be criticised for not doing more**
>
> SALLY LEAROYD, RSPCA

RSPCA equine rehoming officer, Sally Learoyd, said: "We have been overwhelmed with enquiries from well-meaning people who believe we are able to step in and remove animals straight away.

"We share their frustration that there are horses which may seem as if they don't have water or food, but we do not have any powers to remove them unless a vet can say they are suffering or their needs are not being met under the Animal Welfare Act.

"We want our supporters and others to understand we can only offer the owners, where known, advice to improve conditions – we cannot force them to comply with advice nor take away animals without veterinary support.

"It can be heartbreaking for our officers to try their best to improve horses' lives within the law, only to be criticised for not being able to do more."

AVIATION

Question of ecology over economy holds key to whether Lydd Airport will finally be expanded

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

LARGE stretches of Kent's coastline are valued as so ecologically important the European Union has gone to great lengths to ensure their protection.

But this spring, a decision will be made by the Government on whether to allow the expansion of Lydd Airport – a small terminal next to an area of land designated as a National Nature Reserve, a Special Protection Area, Site of Special Scientific Interest, and a Special Area of Conservation.

Protection was given by the Government and the EU for Dungeness, ensuring a duty to protect the hundreds of species of plants and – in some cases threatened – wildlife.

The area is also Britain's only desert, holding one of the largest amounts of shingle in the world.

But despite moves to ensure stringent protection of the ecology of the area, proposals are in place to expand Lydd Airport, which sits next to Dungeness, in a bid by airport owners to attract large commercial jets and increase passenger numbers to half a million a year.

Directly across the county, plans to build an airport by the Thames Estuary on the Isle of Grain – one of the most internationally important water bird sites – are being considered.

While there is strong opposition from people in north Kent, a formal consultation is to be held by the Government looking into airport provision in the South East, which will be a chance for supporters of the multi-billion pound airport design by architect Lord Foster for the Isle of Grain to push their case. London Mayor Boris Johnson has also argued for an airport in the Thames Estuary.

TRANQUIL: Dungeness faces large-scale change

But the ecological importance of the north Kent marshes was highlighted just last week when environment secretary Caroline Spelman announced plans to designate the Greater Thames Marshes as one of 12 new Nature Improvement Areas (NIA) to get a share of £7.5 million to create wildlife havens, restore habitats and encourage people to get involved with nature. The move would help create and enhance grazing marsh, salt marsh and mudflat habitats off north Kent, Essex and east London.

Mrs Spelman said it would "safeguard our wildlife for generations to come" and environmentalists are hoping this will add to the case against the airport development.

But both the Lydd and Grain cases raise questions on whether special protection by the EU actually holds any weight or whether economy will always come before ecology.

A spokeswoman from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs said that while stricter planning assessments were carried out when protected areas were the focus of development, it did not necessarily stop construction.

She said: "There are three things that need to be proved: that there is no feasible alternative; that there is an over-riding public interest; and that other designated land can be found to replace the site."

But she admitted despite the protected sites being designated by the Government and EU, it was local authorities which usually had the final say on whether construction could go ahead.

In the case of Lydd Airport, Shepway council is the driving force behind the airport owner's plans. Other supporters include Tory MP for Folkestone and Hythe Damian Collins who believes it would boost the local economy.

During the public inquiry he said: "Shepway as a whole, and Romney Marsh in particular, badly needs to attract investment and jobs. At a time when the future of the power station at Dungeness is uncertain, we cannot afford to throw away the opportunity that investment in the airport's development represents."

The Government's planning inspector stepped in due to doubts surrounding the development and an eight-month public inquiry was held last year. The decision is expected this spring.

Campaigners argue unique wildlife would be destroyed as a result.

An RSPB spokesman said: "The owners of little Lydd airport want to increase the number of passengers that fly from there from around 4,000 a year to 500,000.

"This and could see its remarkable wildlife slowly disappear, poisoned by increased levels of pollution, or simply driven out by the massive disturbance such a large airport would cause."

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YOUNG PEOPLE

More male volunteers called for as Girl Guides see waiting lists grow

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

THE Girl Guide movement is so popular in Kent, the two main divisions are still turning youngsters away because of a shortage of leaders and volunteers.

The situation is made all the more difficult because men appear reluctant to come forward and volunteer, despite the organisation being keen to recruit them.

Helen Barton, 30, from Tunbridge Wells, has just been selected as one of the country's 24 new Guiding Lights to promote the Guides, and she confirmed the waiting lists are getting longer.

Total membership in the UK is now at 538,247, up from 530,000 last year, a rise of one an hour every hour.

But some groups are having to hold a waiting list because there are simply not enough adults coming forward to look after members.

She agreed there is a bit of a stigma against men doing the job, saying: "After a female leader, it would absolutely fine if the rest of the volunteers were men, but I have never heard of that happening.

"Men are more than welcome to come forward and help.

"There are 44,000 on our waiting list nationally and Kent has its problems too. It is a huge problem. We are trying to work out why people are not volunteering.

"People are moving home more often and others are simply giving up.

"Men are very, very welcome as unit helpers. The dads on parent rotas do a lot to keep units afloat by just helping out one week in three.

"It's good to have a balanced team. There could be a stigma stopping them, but I have to say I have never experienced it."

Division commissioner Helen said the worry of being accused of something untoward "might" hold men back.

And she added: "If they want to get involved; they will take part in the safe space training, and they can make sure they remain in a position where there is no risk.

"There is a lot of support from Girlguiding UK about both male and female members. It is a society thing really, which is a shame."

"I get a lot out of guiding as an adult volunteer and I did when I was a young member.

"It opens my eyes – all the different things I could do, all the amazing people I meet. It's fun and silly and very distracting.

"I do hear some sad things in my day-to-day work, but playing can help me let off steam. I appreciate working alongside people from different fields. We'll approach a task in a different way, but still work together respectfully and constructively.

GUIDING LIGHT: Helen keen to promote Guides

"I think it's important for girls and young women to learn skills that don't form part of their school curriculum, meet girls that don't go to their schools, consider values and opinions that are independent from their family and have a chance to let off steam – somehow they manage to do all of this in Guiding."

Chief Guide Gill Slocombe said: "Guiding remains one of the only spaces where girls and young women can be adventurous, learn new skills, have their opinions heard and gain leadership skills outside of school, without feeling they have to conform to a set of narrow stereotypes.

"Guiding also offers our young members some amazing experiences, from the excitement of their first Brownie campout to working in countries such as the Gambia and Honduras on international development projects.

"With opportunities like this it is no wonder girls are voting with their feet and joining us."

■ **Read all the very latest news and sport headines at www.yourtunbridgewells.co.uk.**

CRIME

£3k of cricket kit stolen

More than £3,000 of cricket equipment has been stolen from a car. The theft took place between February 11-13 in Arundel Square, Maidstone. Brands of cricket bats stolen include Pod, Rogue and Salix with each bat costing between £100-350. PC Darren Lawley said: "The equipment is all high quality and I would ask people to be conscious of this if they are offered second-hand cricket equipment."

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News

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Charity 'one-stop shop' gets £600,000 Big Society grant

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A CO-OPERATIVE has been set up to help community and volunteer organisations get off the ground and grow.

It's called the Big Society Co-operative and is based in Ashford.

Thanks to an award of £600,000 from the Government Big Society department, the Office for Civil Society, partners Stephen Bell (pictured) and Amanda Carpenter say the future is now much brighter for anyone wanting to start a voluntary group.

Mr Bell said: "At the moment, if you want to get information about some aspect of your organisation the chances are you will need to track down many people for their advice.

"With us, you can go on our website, post your needs and we will then matchmake all the various companies and organisations that can help."

Mr Bell, who ran a children's charity, said the idea came to him when he realised how hard it was to get the right information quickly.

He said: "I was left wishing there was some easy way I could get all the information I needed in one place, and then I decided to be that person for everyone else.

"The money we have from the Civil Society will help support us while advertising builds up on the website from people wanting to get new organisations on their books. So it would be like an accountant advertising their services so a new charity could employ them.

"But we can do so much more than that; this is literally a one-stop shop for every aspect of either setting up a new organisation or helping an existing one grow."

He said information they need is currently scattered across the internet – be it policies, advice, templates for important documents, and routes to support organisations.

Mr Bell said: "We now have all that under one roof making life so much easier for everyone involved.

"We are good for business and by working with chambers of commerce we will be running a business mentoring programme to join all the strands needed in community and volunteer organisations so they run smoothly – and we can save them money doing it."

Mr Bell said: "The grant is for 18 months, but the vision of the BSC founders is that this is just the beginning. We want organisations and individuals to access services in real time."

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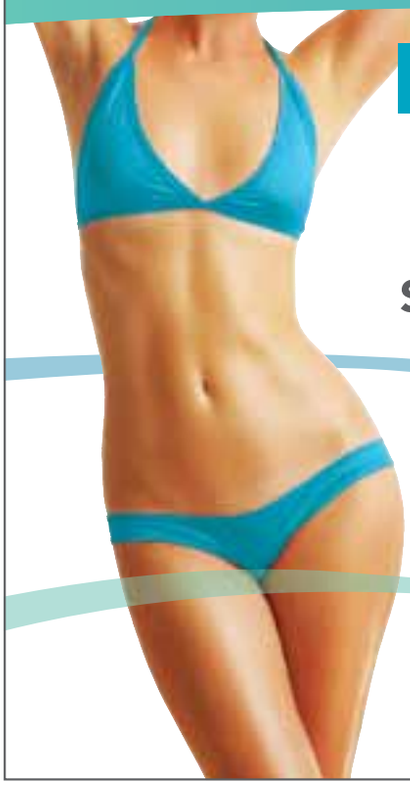

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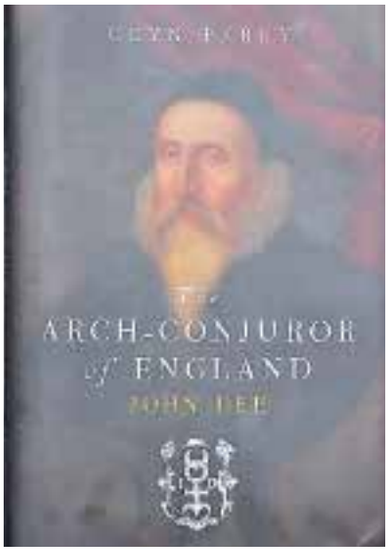

TALES OF THE UNEXPECTED: John Dee's remarkable exploits are revealed in Glyn Parry's new book

The man who had the ear of royals and angels

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

LITTLE known Kent connections with one of the most controversial figures ever to be part of this country's royal court have come to light in a newly-published book.

The Arch-Conjuror of England – John Dee, explores the life of man who pursued careers as an alchemist, magician, political advisor, and prophet, during Queen Elizabeth I's reign.

It was even claimed – mainly by Dee himself – that he conversed on a regular basis with angels.

Drawing on primary historical sources, author Glyn Parry, a fellow of the Royal Historical Society, examines Dee's vast number of political, magical and scientific writings. And in exploring his family origins the writer sheds light on the role the port of Gravesend played in his formative years – and eventual escape to Europe.

One of Dee's major preoccupations was a British Empire in the Americas and Europe which he based on the wholly mythical idea that King Arthur had once ruled such domains.

He even claimed – in later life – to be descended from Welsh princes, including Arthur himself.

But Dee's family was more down to earth. Loyalty to King Henry VIII after his split with the Catholic Church ensured they prospered.

Roland Dee married 15-year-old Jane Wilde, heiress of William, who was a major landowner in what was then called Milton-next-Gravesend.

MAN OF MYSTERY: John Dee was forced to flee to Gravesend

The family became politically important in the north Kent area and John was born in 1527.

The Dees moved up to London, but financial scandals forced Roland back to Gravesend, where powerful political allies protected him against his creditors.

The Wildes of Gravesend were also helpful in John Dee's appointments at court, giving him the opportunity to attend as physician to the dying noblewoman Elizabeth Parr, a friend of Queen Elizabeth's.

As his reputation grew Dee straddled the worlds of science and magic – to the concern of many courtiers.

And as well as lecturing on advanced algebra at the University of Paris while still in his early 20s, he was a respected astronomer, as well as a leading expert in navigation, having trained many of those who would conduct England's voyages of discovery.

He devoted much time to attempting to talk with angels in order to learn the universal language of creation and bring about the unity of mankind.

Dee did not draw distinctions between his mathematical research and his investigations into magic, angel summoning, and divination. Instead he considered all of his activities to constitute the search for an understanding of the divine.

In his lifetime, Dee amassed one of the largest libraries in England at his house in Mortlake, near London, and served as an occasional adviser and tutor to Elizabeth I.

But enemies gathered at court and forced Dee to flee, owing money. He used his connections in Gravesend where a ship took him to Holland.

According to legend, a mob incensed by his sinister reputation, destroyed his house, scientific instruments and books, but Parry says this did not happen and they were merely removed by his creditors.

On return to England he never regained his former status and died around 1608. He has no marked grave.

The British Museum holds several items once owned by Dee, including an Aztec mirror, wax seals, a crystal ball, and golden amulet.

It is believed that Shakespeare based the character of Prospero on him and musicians Damon Albarn of Blur, Blue Oyster Cult, and Iron Maiden have all written songs about him.

Dee is, in 2012, even a character in PlayStation games.

OPINION

Extradition treaty law unto itself

As Kent businessman Christopher Tappin is denied bail in America, MEP **Nigel Farage** says UK government should stop pandering to US laws...

I'M absolutely appalled that Christopher Tappin has been denied bail, but even more so that Home Secretary Theresa May has done absolutely nothing to help the situation.

A few weeks ago, I wrote to Mrs May to ask her, nay plead with her, to put the case for bail to the US Justice Department, but answers there were none, and now we know that 65-year-old Mr Tappin, with an unblemished record and a successful business history, will stay locked in a stark, violent, American prison until his trial.

Things are going from bad to worse for Christopher Tappin.

The hard-working grandfather from Orpington was described as "a danger to the community" by US prosecutors, and this led to Judge Robert Casteneda's refusal of bail.

The British government is making no effort whatsoever.

In its election manifesto, the Conservative Party pledged to reform the current extradition-agreement with the US; and yet, once in power, it conveniently concluded the arrangements were perfectly satisfactory.

Judging by the number of people who have contacted me there is a crying need for this agreement to be revised.

As with the monstrous European Arrest Warrant, it goes against centuries of British justice that, at the order of a foreign magistrate, a British subject can be deported to face trial abroad, without prima facie evidence being produced against him. For committal to trial in the UK, the prosecution is always required to present prima facie evidence of all of the essential facts of its case. If it cannot, its case will be dismissed without any need for a response from the defence.

Thus, the very basis of our legal system is completely abolished by these extradition arrangements. In another example – this time by order of a European Arrest Warrant based simply on the signature of a Greek magistrate – British student Andrew Symeou was shipped off to Greece and held in custody for more than a year, before coming to trial.

He was found not guilty, as one glance at the evidence would have shown.

And now Mr Tappin has been refused bail he faces the awful dilemma of waiting years in prison for a trial, knowing his defence will cost upwards of $1 million, knowing his witnesses will not want to risk being arrested themselves if they travel to the States to testify, and knowing that, if he is found guilty – after all the Americans will want a result after extraditing him – he faces life in prison and probably dying in jail, unless he accepts a plea bargain.

If he pleads guilty to a lesser charge then he could serve only a few years in jail and, hopefully, be back in the UK in time to continue caring for his ill wife. He will, of course, have a criminal record, without having committed any crime.

He faces life in prison and probably dying in jail, unless he accepts a plea bargain

All this has become the vile reality for Mr Tappin, and his family, because of the inaction of Theresa May, and the Government, who defend the right of terrorists and do nothing to look after their own hard-working, loyal, tax-paying nationals.

Anyone who wishes to show their support for Mr Tappin and to show they want these extradition arrangements to conform to our own laws, should sign up to the petition I have set up at http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/30569.

Mr Cameron is meeting President Obama on the March 13. Let's ensure he has a strong message from us, before he goes, that we want change, and we want justice for Mr Tappin.

■ **Nigel Farage is the leader of Ukip and a Kent MEP.**

KOS COMMENT

Sat nav firms must act to stop lorry problems

THANKS to the huge numbers of foreign lorries that use our roads, Kent suffers more than most from the problem of large trucks getting stuck in country lanes.

Most of us at one time or another have encountered the gridlock that can be caused when sat nav systems direct HGVs through village high streets that were designed in an era of the horse and cart rather than the internal combustion engine.

Now the Freight Transport Association is challenging sat nav manufacturers to make their machines choose appropriate routes for large lorries. It would certainly be a better use of the companies' time than organising celebrity sat nav voices.

Farewell to the towers

RICHBOROUGH Power Station's cooling towers are due to be flattened this weekend. They may be considered an ugly industrial eyesore by some people, but you cannot deny the impressiveness of these structures.

It will take some time for people in east Kent to get used to the new sklyline.

Feedback

Letters/emails/texts

A grey squirrel in Walderslade Woods by Lauryn Anderson, aged 12

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Thanet needs the right links

MANSTON as a commercial airport is what is needed. It's been there for years.

Because it has not been used properly we have had noisy old aircraft coming in and out for years.

Modern aircraft make little noise. With a bit more money spent on technology they would be even quieter.

First of all the we need a proper high-speed rail link, not the pathetic Ramsgate Channel Tunnel loop.

The out-of-date roads, M2 and its links need updating.

If these things were done (it's not just about airports) people would live here and commute. My children had to leave years ago as did many others because of the poor services provided to this area.

Other areas in the country have had them for years, where you can get to London in under an hour, and they are further away.

It's the fault of respective governments, what ever party, and also the money-draining EU.

This area has become more and more run down over the years, but airports attract companies and help local employment.

Yes, people must be considered – give them free insulation and double glazing.

Remember Thanet council and Kent County Council, these projects need your support.

With a good road and rail link it would be more than accessible. You don't need to go building airports in the Thames estuary where nature is at its best.

Tearing up open countryside – the cost would be far more than using Manston. The runway could be moved round at Manston to go out over the sea.

Night flights – but where are the day flights? They are not here because of incompetence from Thanet council, KCC, and respective governments.

Adrian Ottley, Birchington

Greens say no to night flights

THE Dover and Thanet Green parties are asking Thanet District Council to take note of our objection to night flights.

We note firstly that Manston's job forecasts have been shown to be absurdly exaggerated which we condemn as deeply unhelpful to a rational discussion about the economic prospects of both the airport and the possibilities those prospects would or would not provide for the area.

The fact is that Manston has lost both jobs and money, and night flights will not help the airport in the current economic climate.

York Aviation's prediction that by 2018, Manston will have created 2,070 direct jobs by handling 2,286,000 passengers a year – that's 1,104 jobs per million passengers – four times higher than its sister airport at Prestwick.

Thanet and Dover Green parties suggest it is time to start considering a Plan B for the airport site, one that could genuinely have a hope of creating the jobs the area so desperately needs.

An all-weather leisure centre to compliment the re-development of Dreamland would be a good use for the site.

Concerning the effects of night flights, the arguments against accepting increased noise at night are substantial.

The World Health Organisation, offers a comprehensive list of the negative effects of excessive noise on people including: earing impairment; pain; perceived noisiness and annoyance; interference with communication and speech perception; sleep disturbance; effects during sleep such as on heart rate, finger pulse and respiration; stress; cardiovascular effects; mental disorders; undermining task performance and productivity; and deficits in reading acquisition amongst children. These should provide enough reasons to ban night flights from Manston permanently.

Tim Spurrier, Green Party

Everyone's not an expert, Roy

'EXPERTS' almost brought the world into financial meltdown.

'Experts' gave us Thalidomide and 'experts' laughed at the amateur meteorologist who said there would be a hurricane in 1987.

We don't need lectures from Roy Duff on 'experts' (Letters, March 4).

Their problem' is they have their own narrow view which, once committed to, is almost impossible to change through loss of pride and status.

Many of these 'experts' have been discredited and found to be massaging figures to suit their own theories.

The world is facing many serious man-made problems which need urgent attention, before worrying about something that's been happening for thousands of years and over which we have no control.

Phil Granger, West Malling

Rainbow sign that welcomes

PRIDE in Canterbury have been inviting businesses in the area to display rainbow stickers at the entrance to their premises.

These small stickers send out a message that the premises are either gay-run, or gay-friendly. They are more likely to encourage lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people to enter into, and to give their custom to, such businesses, especially in areas that are not known to welcome them. We have been heartened by the response.

For the eight years Pride in Canterbury has been working, we have been sending out the message it would be financially beneficial to Canterbury, and indeed to the whole of Kent, to demonstrate and advertise a willingness to welcome LGBT visitors, and indeed residents, of all ages, to the city.

This is of particular importance in these difficult financial times.

We know that by holding Thanet LGBT Pride Days, Margate has welcomed, and appreciated, the value of attracting the 'pink pound', the money LGBT people have available to spend.

The lack of such a welcome, because of fear and prejudice will drive away the talents, skills, energies and the money of young LGBT people and they will not return.

The recent 'Pop Up Pride' event in Folkestone brought LGBT visitors into the town. Rainbow flags were flying, but there were no riots, no outrages, no horses were frightened. A good time was had by all, and we found a gay-friendly cafe to which we will certainly return.

We will now provide these stickers free of charge to any gay-friendly businesses and organisations in the Thanet area if they contact us with details at prideincanterbury@btinternet.com.

Andrew Brettell, Pride in Canterbury

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Edited by **Adam Aiken**

Perfect time to cash in on golden opportunity

TONY HETHERINGTON
MONEY CLINIC

Q Just over a year ago you advised me not to sell my two gold Krugerrand coins because you thought the price would climb. Thank you, as their value has risen from £870 to £1,050 each. Should I sell now?

A Since you wrote to me, gold has risen further. Investors still regard gold as safer than currencies like the euro. This unlikely to change overnight. Unless you need the cash keep your coins, but watch the gold price as well. If it retreats to £1,050, sell and pocket your profits.

Q When my husband and I split up, he carried on using the joint account that we had opened to pay household bills. I was not aware of this, as he gave the bank his new address so statements went straight to him. He is now overdrawn, and with interest the account is £1,890 in the red. The bank has written to me, holding me responsible. Is this legal?

A I am afraid it is legal. It is not even unusual in divorce or separation for one partner to run up bills at the other partner's expense. Anyone who has a joint account is totally liable for any debts on that account. When you open a joint account, you give the bank power to chase you for repayments, even if the cash actually went to your other half. There are only a couple of things you can now do. The first is to negotiate with the bank. As a rough rule of thumb, the chances are that it might be willing to write off about £550, if you can find the remaining £1,340. Secondly, you can sue your husband. Neither course of action is perfect, but the uncomfortable fact is the bank is in the right. Anyone who splits with their partner should tell the bank at once, so fresh debts are avoided.

Q Like a reader who wrote to you recently, I think redundancies are due where I work. Is unemployment insurance worthwhile, and how much does it cost?

A The cost of insurance against unemployment is based mainly on your age and income. The older you are, and the higher your income, the bigger the premiums. But to give an example, let's suppose you are about 30 and would like to claim £1,000 or so each month you are out of work. Think in terms of paying about £40 a month now in premiums. But be careful. If you know that your job will go, then you have left it too late. You can't insure against something that you are certain is going to happen.

Q I am approaching 65, work for myself, and have saved about £200,000 in my pension pot. I have been told this will buy only £10,300 as an annuity. I have also been told that if I die, the whole £200,000 goes to some insurance company, and not to my family. This seems grossly unfair.

A There are a few steps you can take, but they come at a price. For a start, you can draw a quarter of the £200,000 as a tax-free lump sum – but, of course, that would leave only £150,000 for your pension. You can also choose an annuity that guarantees payments for five or 10 years to your family if you die, but this again will reduce the pension you get now. Similarly, if you choose an annuity with a widow's pension, the amount you get now will fall. On the brighter side, you seem to have been quoted quite a low annuity. Consult a broker and shop around. Aviva, Canada Life, and Legal & General have all quoted annuity rates recently that would pay closer to £12,000 than £10,300.

Q If the Government goes ahead with plans to take child benefit away from anyone who pays higher-rate tax, how much am I allowed to earn before this will affect us? My wife is not employed as she looks after our two children, both under five.

A The changes to child benefit are planned for April next year. As things stand, you start to be a higher-rate taxpayer when you have taxable income of £35,000. Since the first £7,475 of income escapes tax, this means you can have a gross income of £42,475 before losing child benefit. I fully expect this figure will rise before April, 2013.

Q I took out a student loan nearly 10 years ago. Since leaving college I have – by my own choice – worked for a charity that pays a low salary so I have made no repayments. My partner has now asked what will happen if I reach retirement without having repaid the loan, and I have realised that I don't know the answer!

A The student loan rules in force when you borrowed the money mean that anything still owed will be written off if you reach 65 without having repaid the lot.

■ If you have a personal-finance question, write to Tony Hetherington, MyMoney24, Prospect House, Rouen Road, Norwich NR1 1RE. We regret that neither Tony nor the MyMoney24 team can enter into personal correspondence.

Banks forced to inform customers mis-sold PPI

By Adam Aiken
Editor MyMoney 24

THE crackdown on mis-sold payment protection insurance (PPI) has taken another step forward, with banks and other financial providers being forced to notify customers they may have been victims of the scandal.

The Financial Services Authority (FSA) has said the industry must tell customers in jargon-free letters that they may have been mis-sold PPI.

Analysts said the development was a "key moment" in the mis-selling saga. It means millions of people who might otherwise not have bothered to see if they were due refunds will now be prompted by the banks to consider whether they are owed redress.

PPI has been one of the biggest mis-selling scandals in recent years, with millions of consumers sold unsuitable products.

Many people – particularly those who were self-employed – found they were ineligible to make claims under the policies, while others found the terms and conditions were so specific that meeting the criteria to make a claim was all but impossible.

In some cases, people were told they wouldn't be approved for loans or credit cards if they did not take out PPI at the same time, even though a credit application process is entirely separate from PPI. Other tricks included adding the total cost of the premiums to the initial loan amount, resulting in the borrower paying interest on the insurance throughout the lifetime of the loan.

Although PPI is a good product in certain situations, so much mis-selling took place that banks and other PPI providers are now having to repay billions of pounds to millions of people. Banks are set to pay out more than £4 billion this year alone after about £1.9bn was paid out last year.

HIT: PPI victims continue to tug away at banks that mis-sold so many policies

"The mis-selling of PPI was a national rip-off with many people paying for something they didn't need – or weren't even eligible to use," said Gillian Guy, chief executive at Citizens Advice.

"We're pleased the FSA is making banks write to all those customers who might have been mis-sold PPI explaining they can make a claim."

Meanwhile, the move could spell trouble for the burgeoning claims-management industry.

Consumer groups have warned against using third parties to help make PPI claims, urging people to make their own complaints instead.

Although claims managers can take the hassle out of the process, they also take a slice of any money you win back – and this can be as much as 25pc of the compensation.

"We've had people coming to us for help because claims management companies put pressure on them to make a claim, took huge fees, or a successful claim had been made but all of the money went to the clients' creditors and they were then left in debt to the claims management company for their fee," said Ms Guy.

"Anyone who is using a claims management company must make sure they read the small print and don't commit to anything until they fully understand fees and charges."

Claims handlers have been proactive in encouraging potential victims to see if they can make claims.

Given the banks have now been told by the FSA to write to their customers and prompt them to look at their own situations, consumer advocates will be hoping that more people take on their own cases rather than rely on outside help.

MPs call for greater transparency to protect 'most vulnerable' from payday loan providers

A CRACKDOWN on debt management companies and payday loan providers is needed, with the industry responsible for "vulnerable and desperate" people losing their homes.

That is the verdict of an influential panel of MPs, which is calling for greater transparency in a market that has boomed in recent years.

A report by the Business, Innovation and Skills Committee published this week called for a fast-track procedure to be put in place that enables lenders' credit licences to be suspended.

The Debt Management report also called for a limit in the rolling-over of payday loans, and for lenders to record all transactions on a single database.

Payday loans – which typically charge interest of several thousand per cent on an annual basis – are designed to be fixes for short-term cashflow problems, but the MPs heard of cases where consumers found themselves trying to juggle more than 20 of these loans at once.

"During these difficult economic times, increasing numbers of people up and down the country – not least some of the most vulnerable members of our society – are relying on the provision of consumer debt management services and payday loans to make ends meet," said committee chairman Adrian Bailey.

"And yet this industry remains opaque and poorly regulated."

The committee found that in extreme cases, consumers had lost their homes after their problems spiralled out of control, falling victim to the very companies they had turned to for help.

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Can our high streets ride the storm and secure a future?

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

The problems of the traditional high street have been well documented as the rival attractions of online shopping and out-of-town retail centres combine with a sluggish economy to hit takings at the till. Here, Business Week takes a look at how traders in Hythe town centre are coping with the challenges and problems of getting shoppers back through the doors

HYTHE high street is about as typical a traditional shopping thoroughfare as can be found anywhere in Kent.

There are bookshops, newsagents, antiques and gift stores, clothes shops, cafés, pubs and restaurants, as well as a market that's open a couple of days a week.

But, according to many traders in the centre of this delightful town, Hythe high street is far from thriving. Takings at the till are sliding, footfall is declining and rents are increasing – all factors that could see some stores close their doors for good by the end of the year.

Alan Fairbairn and his wife Susan run Trouvailles antiques store and say that takings are down two-thirds from their peak and that rent has increased by half.

"We took over a 16-year lease on the shop," said Mr Fairbairn. There is provision for an increase in rent in the contract but nothing for a cut when takings are down as they are."

Mrs Fairbairn explained how the business had suffered over recent years. "There was a time when the value of antiques was really high," she said. "But the market has decreased in the last few years. We have a lot of stock which we bought during the boom time but are now having to sell at a loss.

"People wanted the feel-good factor of buying even 18 months ago, but now they just aren't."

Perhaps ironically, given that the couple say competition from the internet has hit sales, Mrs Fairbairn has started selling books on Amazon.

"It's a case of needs must," she said. "Today, I sold books for £120 on Amazon. I've taken nothing like that in the shop.

"At the till in recent days I've taken £24 once, just £6 another time. This shop has been our living, but I don't think it will be for very much longer.

"We've had to bail it out in the past a few times. But we can't bail it out for ever."

A representative sample of traders in the high street confirmed that takings had fallen between 10 per cent and 15 per cent since 2008 and had now reached a level that made running stores unsustainable.

The arrival of a Sainsbury's store some 100 yards from the high street has also taken away trade – town-centre shop-owners told me that, rather than bringing people into their businesses, the store pulled in people who did their shopping in the supermarket and then drove away.

Kevin Howell runs One One Two Wines and is also vice-chairman of the town chamber of commerce.

He said: "It is definitely tough out there and as a chamber we have been looking at ways to bring more people into the high street.

"Relaxation of parking restrictions and altering the traffic flow to make it more convenient for shoppers using Sainsbury's or Waitrose to also go to local stores have been discussed."

Mr Howell said the diverse nature of the stores was a positive factor in trying to win back customers, and to promote the town the chamber was printing the Hythe Guide, with 50,000 copies to be made available over the next two years.

FIGHTING BACK: Kevin Howell, who runs One One Two Wines and is vice-chairman of the town's chamber of commerce, sees Hythe's diverse nature of stores as a positive in trying to bring customers back to the high street

John Reesby, who runs John's Menswear and has been in business for 20 years, says his loyal customer base – and, critically, the fact that he owns his premises – means he is still positive about the future.

He said: "It's an old-fashioned outfitters that sells just about everything. A group of loyal customers down the generations have helped and we even get people down from London.

"I own the building so have no rent to pay – and that is a major factor for me.

"But I can see how tough it is out there and when I look at the businesses in the high street and their prospects in the near future I don't think some will survive."

Roger House, chairman of the Federation of Small Businesses in Kent and Medway, said: "The retail market has seen major changes with the growth of out-of-town shopping superstores and the internet.

"Town centres and traditional high streets, that developed before motor vehicles and the internet, face more competition than ever before."

"In some places there are too many shops, and demand for their products and services is insufficient to cover the costs of rent and rates, causing an increasing number of vacant premises.

"There is a domino effect – as shops close, there is a reduction in passing trade and this causes reduced footfall to other shops and we enter a downward spiral.

"Mary Portas [Government town-centre adviser] has identified ways local communities may get together to reverse this trend and the FSB urges local authorities to maintain and improve access to town centres."

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MAIN MAN: Richard Frost, of Sheperd Neame

New head brewer ales role at oldest brewery

SHEPHERD Neame's new head brewer says he is relishing the opportunity to work with an award-winning brewing team and top-quality local hops at Britain's oldest brewer.

Richard Frost, 54, has more than 30 years' experience in the industry and was site manager and head brewer at the Wolverhampton brewery, part of Marston's, since 2003.

"I am honoured to be the head brewer of Britain's oldest brewer," said Frost.

"Although it is a long-established company, there have been lots of changes in recent years. Today it is a dynamic, forward-looking business, with a flexible and agile approach to brewing and fulfilling customer orders.

"The use of modern business planning processes has delivered benefits in cost-effectiveness, energy-use and quality while still retaining Shepherd Neame's unique culture and traditional values."

Frost is responsible for all brewing, packaging and engineering operations, leading a team of 90. The team has won many industry awards, both for its production and management approach, and the quality of its ales and lagers.

He said: "I am impressed with the technical experience and depth of knowledge of people in key roles and also their commitment to developing the skills of the younger brewers coming through.

"Kentish ales brewed with local hops have a special character and I am particularly looking forward to discovering the range of historic hop varieties in the National Hop Collection, supported by Shepherd Neame, at Queen Court Farm. I am also impressed with the pilot brewery, which gives us a real chance to experiment and to develop different flavours and styles without being committed to a large production run."

Tom Falcon, Shepherd Neame's production and distribution director, said: "Richard is a talented and experienced brewer and we are sure he will do a great job leading our award-winning team."

Eurotunnel makes a hefty profit and it's double good news for the shareholders

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

GROUPE Eurotunnel SA has announced a profit for 2011 of 11 million euros (approximately £9.2m) – compared with last year's loss of 57m euros (approx £47.6 million) – and the company is proposing to double its shareholders' returns.

Revenue for the year was 845m euros (approx £706m), vastly improving on 2010's 737m euros (£616m).

Compared with the 2010 results, revenue went up 16 per cent – if fluctuations in currency exchange rates are taken into account.

Jacques Gounon, Groupe Eurotunnel's chairman and chief executive officer, said: "In 2011, the Eurotunnel Group made a clear profit and generated significant cash flows despite the uncertain economic climate.

"The outlook is positive and – as a sign of our confidence in the future – we will ask the shareholders to vote at the AGM for the doubling of the dividend to €0.08 (6.6 pence) per share for the 2011 financial year."

The company AGM, scheduled for Thursday, July 26, in Coquelles, will see a vote on a doubled return for investors. A company source said it was "highly unlikely" that shareholders would vote against the proposal.

The company said several factors had contributed to its dramatic change in fortunes.

Spokesman John O'Keefe said: "It's a number of things that we have to take into account when looking at these figures.

"Firstly, the quality of service has been very good with a steady increase in traffic.

"The Icelandic volcano eruption in 2010 pushed people towards us and many have stuck with us. There is also the issue of fuel prices and the hassles attached to other forms of travel, such as surcharges on credit-card bookings and the delays encountered at airports.

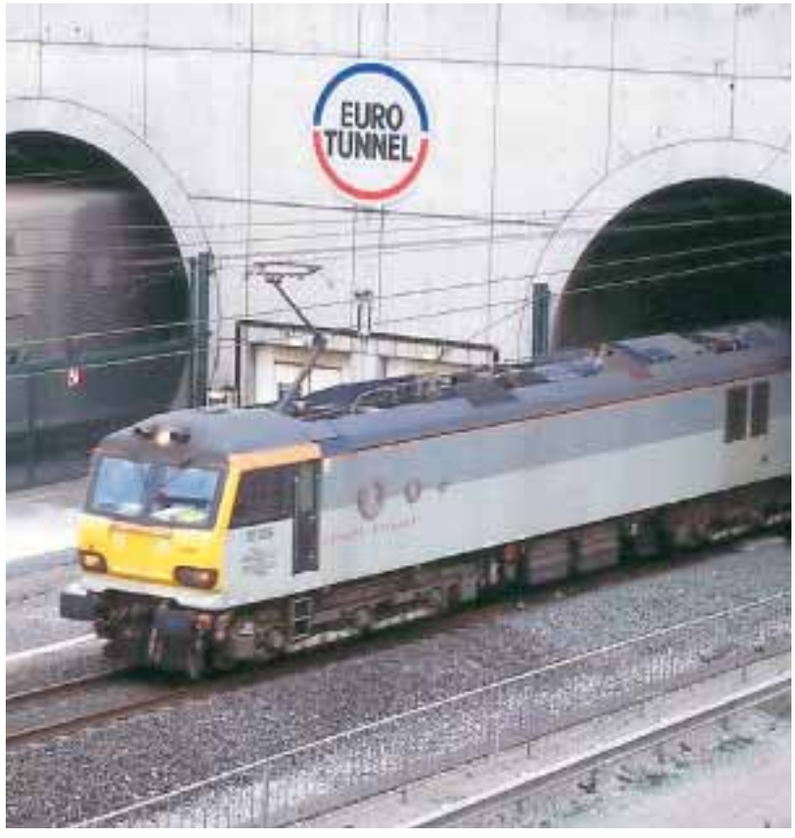
"We run departures on our shuttle services every 15 minutes and that is very convenient for freight operators."

The company is expecting a busy year in 2012, with the London Olympics and Paralympics and The Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

"It is looking very positive despite the economic situation," said Mr O'Keefe. "The period of the Olympics – late July and early August – coincides with the busiest period for holidaymakers leaving the UK, so services should be full both ways.

"Shuttles normally travel at 90mph and take 35 minutes to make the crossing, but we intend to speed them up to 100mph, which means crossing will take 30 minutes. So we shall be able to run five services an hour, rather than four, at peak periods."

During 2011, almost 19 million people crossed the English Channel using Eurotunnel trains. There was also an increase in passengers using Eurostar rail services.



RIDE HIGH: Eurotunnel expects big things in 2012 with the Olympics and The Queen's Diamond Jubilee

Conference centre's investment paying dividends as bookings increase in 2012

THE Kent Event Centre continues to prosper despite the economic uncertainty and is investing in improved facilities and new staff to help cope with increased demand.

KEC, the largest conference facility in Kent, has been at the County Showground at Detling since 1964.

The centre has expanded in recent years and the launch of the Clive Emson Conference Centre in June 2011 has resulted in a surge of bookings.

KEC events manager Alison Wallington said the ongoing programme of investment in facilities at the centre, boosting choice and capacity for clients, was paying dividends in attracting more bookings.

The launch of the Clive Emson Centre had also opened up new markets.

She said: "By investing in facilities and maintaining a clear focus on customer service, we are enjoying a very successful start to 2012.

"We have also welcomed several new staff to the event centre team to help us cope with increased demand."

Kent Event Centre hosts large-scale exhibitions, trade fairs, business conferences, dinner dances and weddings.

Conference facilities comprise the Clive Emson Conference Centre (1,700 sq m), the John Hendry Pavilion (1,750sq m), the Astor Pavilion (151 sq m) and the Kent Pavilion (3,000 sq m).

There are also six large meeting rooms and free parking for 30,000 vehicles.

Perfect 10 for insurance brokers

THE Hammond Consultancy is celebrating 10 years in business and increasing its market share among Kent companies whose turnovers are anything between £10,000 and £10 million

Simon Hammond is the principal of the the Ashford-based insurance brokers.

He said: "The problem with buying from an online insurance site is that you can sometimes be a bit isolated if you want to make a claim.

"In most cases we can compete with them on price, anyway, but in addition I am there to help the client with any claim and deal with problems and paperwork."

Hammond bases his business philosophy on sourcing the most competitive quotes, reacting quickly to enquiries and checking with clients well before policy-renewal dates to ensure they have adequate cover.

"Of course there's always someone who will offer a cheaper service, but the real issue is providing the right cover and making sure that policies meet the needs of businesses as they grow," he said.

"I started my own business 10 years ago, so I know just how daunting it is, and a supportive consultancy such as ours can be tremendously reassuring."

Along with celebrating that 10th anniversary, Hammond is also marking 25 years as an insurance specialist.

SUPPORT: Simon Hammond

Invoice financing can help keep cash flow controlled

Managing control of your cash flow will always be an issue in business, but as **John Charsley**, head of sales for Bibby Financial Services South East, explains, invoice finance can provide an excellent solution

THE economic climate of recent years has resulted in businesses struggling to secure funding, with many financial institutions lacking the appetite to back small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), despite Government initiatives such as the Project Merlin agreement aimed at boosting funding to businesses.

Sluggish growth in the economy and factors such as the rise in VAT at the start of 2011 meant banks were less inclined to lend money, while it also contributed to the caution felt by SMEs when approaching banks for funding and taking on further debt.

However, with bills, invoices and salaries still requiring payment and raw materials and new equipment to be purchased, a healthy and ongoing supply of funds is integral to businesses' survival and to realise ambitions for sustained growth.

With this in mind, more and more businesses in Kent and beyond are broadening their horizons when it comes to reviewing the finance options available to them.

According to the latest quarterly statistics from the Asset Based Finance Association (ABFA)*, one form of finance that is being used increasingly by SMEs is 'invoice finance'.

This increase in popularity echoes our experience, with almost a 3 per cent growth in client numbers in the South East during the past year, despite the recession, as more and more businesses use invoice finance to achieve a healthy cash flow and fuel growth plans.

What is invoice finance?

When you are running a business, cash is king. Of all the challenges facing SMEs, generating cash and keeping it flowing can be two of the toughest. If your cash flow is suffering while you wait for your customers to pay their invoices, it may be appropriate to approach an invoice-finance company.

Generally speaking, invoice finance takes two main forms.

The first option for many businesses is factoring – a flexible funding and collections facility. Factoring helps to bridge the cash-flow gap between raising an invoice and getting paid, giving businesses an immediate cash-injection and then an ongoing supply of working capital against the value of outstanding customer invoices as they are raised.

NUMBERS GAME: As John Charsley reveals, more and more of the county's SMEs are using invoice financing as a way of keeping a healthy cash flow and fuelling potential growth plans

Using a factoring facility, businesses also benefit from the provider's credit-management and collections service, saving them valuable time as the provider will chase and collect outstanding invoice payments on the firm's behalf.

The other main option is invoice discounting, a flexible funding-only solution. Unlike factoring, the business maintains control of the sales ledger and continues to collect payments from its customers against outstanding invoices.

What does it cost?

There are two fees involved. The first is for the cost of the finance. This compares favourably with the cost of a typical bank overdraft.

The second is for the service you receive, which on average is between 0.5 and 3 per cent of annual turnover, but it depends on the number of customers you deal with and the number of invoices you raise. Compare it against the cost of your existing credit-control team and the savings you will make.

Never decide on cost alone – consider the quality of the service you receive and ensure you are comparing like for like.

Choosing a suitable provider

There are now in the region of 50 different companies offering invoice-finance facilities in the UK, including bank-owned providers, independent companies like Bibby Financial Services and boutique firms, which provide services for just one or two niche industries.

Typically, firms are introduced to a supplier through their bank, a broker, financial adviser or accountant.

However, we are also seeing increasing numbers of businesses getting in touch directly with us to discuss whether invoice finance would suit their financial needs.

To help you choose a suitable factoring company to work with your business, you should ask the following questions:

- Are they a member of The Asset Based Finance Association (ABFA)?
- What percentage of your invoices will be approved by the invoice financier and therefore funded?
- Who will look after your account and do you have access to the decision-makers?
- How will the invoice financier work with your customers? Will they communicate by phone, mail or both?

Are there any hidden charges?

Through the depths of the last recession we have seen from our near-4,000-strong client base just how important securing funding has been, not only in terms of businesses surviving but also in building for growth.

Many firms like the flexibility offered by invoice finance as it can help them to manage the peaks and troughs most businesses experience without having to renegotiate a long-term financial arrangement.

■ **To find out more about invoice finance, visit www.bibbyfinancialservices.com**

BIG OPPORTUNITY: Manston airport in Thanet

Airport chiefs positive Mumbai trip will land new freight contracts

MANSTON airport says it is confident of landing new customers after showcasing what it has to offer at the world's biggest freight exhibition in India.

Air Cargo India 2012, held in Mumbai, is this year's largest freight-aviation exhibition. It brings together almost 2,500 of the world's senior air-freight businesses and the people who make the day-to-day decisions behind an industry that, despite the global downturn, is continuing to grow.

Speaking after returning from the event, Allan MacQuarrie, the group freight-development manager who is based at Manston, said: "The show enabled us to meet the world's air-freight industry in one place.

"It's much more than trying to secure customers from India – the net is cast much wider and includes the potential for new freight traffic from the Middle East, Africa and Europe.

"This year we saw an increase in enquiries for our general cargo capabilities, as well as for handling fresh produce.

"Our freight customers are attracted by our industry-beating turnaround times for flights, competitive prices and fewer delays than at other UK airports.

"It is a highly competitive marketplace, but we are confident we will secure new freight customers and grow this part of the Manston business during the year."

As well as welcoming freight forwarders, airlines, and charter service companies, Air Cargo India 2012 also hosts many of the world's leading freight airports, with a big contingency from Germany including Cologne Bonn, Frankfurt Hahn, Hannover and Stuttgart.

Charles Buchanan, chief executive of Manston airport, said: "Given the rising level of freight being imported into the UK, and our ability to beat every other South East airport in terms of time it takes to unload and prepare the airline for take-off, means we are very well placed to grow our freight business."

Rail-travel specialist delighted to remain at Kings Hill

CONTINENTAL train-travel specialist Rail Europe is to retain its Kings Hill headquarters for a further 10 years.

The company is the UK's leading specialist in tickets and passes for rail travel around Europe and has been based on the business park since 2001.

Its office building was specially designed to suit its requirements.

More than 80 staff are based at the offices. Andrew Blevins, managing director of Kings Hill developer LibertyProperty Trust UK Ltd, said: "It is great news for Kings Hill and for Kent that Rail Europe is remaining here."

Rail Europe offers tickets for high-speed, overnight and scenic rail journeys to and throughout Europe. It also offers InterRail passes covering up to 30 European countries, tickets for AutoTrain car-carrying services and ski trains.

Karen McClellan, deputy managing director of Rail Europe, said: "Kings Hill is an ideal location for Rail Europe. Our staff come from throughout Kent and all find it easy to reach us due to the excellent transport links with both road and rail. The onsite facilities make it a pleasant and convenient place to work and I'm delighted that we will be remaining here for another 10 years."

Hanover Green acted for the landlord and Watson Day for Rail Europe.

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Training, courses and careers

Construction success for apprenticeship week

VACANCIES for 11 apprenticeships were secured at events for construction employers in Kent organised by CITB-ConstructionSkills during National Apprenticeship Week last month.

Employers who attended the events in Faversham and Erith received an update on the support available to them if they take on an apprentice and they also had the opportunity to meet with aspiring young apprentices and speak to representatives from ACAS and Makita.

Daniel Johnson, a construction careers advisor for CITB-ConstructionSkills in the South said: "There is a real need for more employers to take an apprentice on, and events like these provide us with an excellent opportunity to let employers know more about the funding and support that's available – and for the employers to meet with these enthusiastic young people keen to get a foot on construction's career ladder.

"Apprentices are the lifeblood of the industry and businesses that support apprenticeships reap the benefits from doing so.

"We are an ageing industry with one in six planning to retire in the next decade, so it's crucial that we think now about our future skills base.

"We need to ensure there is a steady supply of talent coming through to be able to meet demand in the future."

CITB-ConstructionSkills is the Industrial Training Board and Sector Skills Council (SSC) for the construction industry.

CITB-ConstructionSkills works to deliver a safe, professional and fully qualified construction workforce through the industry's Sector Skills Agreement.

It is responsible for raising employer engagement in training, implementing industry-led skills solutions, securing appropriate funding, producing labour market data, and developing standards and qualifications that meet employer needs.

Organisers said this year's National Apprenticeship Week was the most successful ever, thanks to an unprecedented level of support.

There were more than 800 events and activities on offer across England – a new record – an increase of 300 on last year.

National Apprenticeship Service chief executive Simon Waugh said: "National Apprenticeship Week is a time to celebrate the countless achievements of apprentices and employers, and to call on more organisations and individuals to get involved.

"We are delighted that so many individuals and organisations supported our campaign and would like to say a huge thank you to everyone for all their help and support in making National Apprenticeship Week 2012 such a phenomenal success."

The week included David Cameron announcing more Higher Apprenticeships and the launch of an incentive of £1,500 for small firms who hire their first young apprentices.

What is your business doing to help Keep Kent Working? Do you send employees on training courses to aid their personal development or run apprenticeship schemes? If you have a good news story email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk or call us on 01303 817136.

JOBS: The construction industry helped make National Apprenticeship Week a success

Jobs and training advice on offer

HOUSING association Moat is hosting a job fair on Wednesday, March 28, offering an opportunity to meet local employers and recruitment agencies who can offer support and advice about careers.

The event runs from 2-5pm at St James Centre, Chapman Way, East Malling, and as well as Moat staff, others on hand during the day will include representatives from Kent Apprenticeships, Connexions, Usbourne Books, Mary K sales team, Royal Air Force (RAF), Voluntary Action Within Kent (VAWK), and K College.

Residents will be able to find out about local training opportunities and colleges, apprenticeships and volunteering, benefit and debt support, CV and cover letter tips, and help with interview preparation.

Moat's community development officer, Peggy Nicholson, said:"We know it's tough out there in the job market at the moment, so we want to support our residents with training and careers.

"We're really grateful to our partners in the East Malling area who have come together to provide this jobs fair and we hope that it proves a fruitful day for lots of local jobhunters."

Moat is a housing association providing affordable homes in the South East.

Academy builds career prospects

THE Business Academy Bexley has celebrated the official opening of its flagship construction centre in Crayford.

Chair of governors Tim Garnham explained how opening a construction centre had long been his ambition.

He said: "I have worked in the property and construction industry all of my working life and this is something very close to my heart.

"With construction being the UK's biggest industry, employing around 2.4 million people in over 700 types of work, it is important to attract young people into construction to avoid future skills shortages.

"When the opportunity to open a centre presented itself we took it and I am delighted that it is so successful. I think we will be oversubscribed very quickly."

Construct enables young people from schools across the borough to work together to gain the knowledge and hands-on practical experience they need to join the construction industry – all in a safe and secure environment that replicates the workplace. As a result they get a BTEC level 1, 2 or 3 qualification that can lead to further qualifications or an apprenticeship.

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UCA graduate puts arts on the big screen in time for the 2012 Games

A large-scale art exhibition inspired by the London 2012 Games and created by a graduate from the University for the Creative Arts (UCA), has gone live to the nation.

The LIVELIVE Project transforms the BBC's network of 22 city-centre Big Screens, installed around the country for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, into digital art galleries.

Since initiating the venture in June, 2010, UCA Canterbury fine art graduate Mark Smith has been awarded Cultural Olympiad status, and received the official 'Inspire' mark from London 2012 organisers. The first daily broadcast was in January.

Mark, 24, said: "When I visited Dover a few years ago, I saw the Big Screen site and immediately thought that it would be an ideal place to show a curated presentation of local and national artwork.

"In so many of our cities, public space is taken up by commercial advertising but this project is about claiming back digital media sites and use them to create a network of enriching and stimulating works that the public can enjoy.

"Thanks to the support of the BBC and their Big Screen technology I have been able to fulfil my goal of creating a new kind of interactive arts programme which engages new arts audiences and promotes increased interaction with the creative arts."

GAMES: Hartsdown Technology College students are designing computer games in their lunchtimes

Students' Olympic challenge

YOUNGSTERS in Margate are using hi-tech software to create their own Olympics-based games.

They are working on designing track and field games, creating time counters, laying out courses, and compiling Olympics-themed on-screen quizzes using Microsoft Kodu, a free programme that is being run via Xbox controllers.

The Kodu Olympic club meets during the lunch breaks at Hartsdown Technology College and students are getting to grips with the IT design project.

The club is overseen by ICT advanced skills teacher Nicki Maddams whose pioneering educational IT work using the Kodu software has won her a place in the European finals of the Innovative Teacher 2011 competition in Portugal this spring.

She said: "The Kodu Olympics club is all about developing computer design skills and tailoring them to a specific Olympics theme using the versatile Kodu software.

"Students of all ages are getting to grips with the task and some interesting and thoughtful games are being developed."

There will be a prize for the best idea by students from Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4.

College to host heat of construction industry's top talent competition

THE South East regional heat of this year's SkillBuild, the UK's biggest construction skills competition, is to be held at MidKent College.

SkillBuild, a competition managed by CITB-ConstructionSkills, the Sector Skills Council and Industry Training Board for the construction industry, is the largest multi-trade competition in the country for construction trainees and apprentices, and showcases the best talent in the industry.

MidKent College's Maidstone Campus will host the South East regional heat on on Thursday, May 24, when the region's top trainees will battle it out in a wide range of trades.

The highest scoring students will win a place at the UK final in September, at Preston College.

The competition will cover a wide range of construction trades including bricklaying; plastering; carpentry; joinery; plastering and dry wall systems; cabinet making; wall and floor tiling; painting and decorating; and reinforced bituminous membranes.

MidKent College's head of faculty for construction and engineering, Simon Foot, said: "MidKent College is delighted to host the SkillBuild heat, which is one of the highlights of the construction and engineering faculty's calendar.

"We're looking forward to making this year's heat an event to remember and wish all participants the best of luck."

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victim support

find the strength

Volunteer for us and make a difference in your area

We need new volunteers to continue delivering a vital service in Kent to victims of crime, by providing free and confidential, emotional support and practical help.

Our volunteers get great satisfaction from supporting people in need. You can develop essential skills through training, support and supervision. You'll also get new opportunities such as learning more about crime, criminal justice and the legal system. It's also a great way to meet new people, and we pay expenses so it doesn't cost anything to volunteer.

We are also looking to recruit volunteers who have had previous experience of working with victims of domestic violence, victims of serious sexual assault and children.

We will be holding interview days/welcome sessions on Thursday 8 March at the Maidstone Gateway between 2-6pm and on Saturday 24 March, at Norman House, Ashford between 1pm-3pm, We are also able to book interviews throughout March on a one-to-one basis. Our next core training course starts on 12, 13, 19, 20 and 27 April.

If you want to find out more about volunteering and to receive an application pack please contact: fiona.shaw@victimsupport.org.uk or call us on 0845 3899 527. We continue to require volunteers for our witness service in some of the courts in Kent.

www.victimsupport.org.uk Registered charity no. 298028

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Westlands Academies Trust Westlands Avenue
Sittingbourne Kent ME10 1PF
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TRAIN TO MAKE GAINS

CNCA

Working to care for those in need

CNCA is Kent's most respected independent nursing and care agency and the leading provider of training for professional care in the community.

Since 1993, CNCA has been providing qualified carers, support workers, residential social-workers, care assistants and companions to the NHS, Social Services, private hospitals and trusts, nursing homes, residential homes, day-care centres and housing associations across Kent.

A key contribution of the agency is its support of adults with learning difficulties, in homes and in the community, so that they can lead as independent lives as possible. It has established a reputation for responding quickly, providing the highest standards in professional care and exceeding expectation in client satisfaction.

In a changing business environment, CNCA maintains the highest traditional standards but offers innovative solutions to the modern care industry. It can provide trained, qualified staff at a moment's notice and develops flexible long-term programmes that provide clients with the right kind of carers, where and when needed.

CNCA has rigorous training-induction procedures for its own staff and has established a Training and Assessment Centre to provide in-house NVQ supervision and assessment for all major care disciplines.

Every day it looks to see where it can improve, accepting and understanding its responsibilities. It will act without hesitation to do all that is required and more.

Sometimes people face 'extraordinary' problems in their lives, some expected, others unique situations that occur out of the blue.

What is meant by 'extraordinary' is a problem faced outside the realm of 'ordinary' lives.

For instance, a loved one might be enduring some form of physical disability, or a family member experiencing the after-effects of a serious operation; a child might be born with severe learning difficulties or autism; or, indeed, a parent could have have grown too old to safely fend for themselves.

Each situation poses its own problems and difficulties and comes wrapped in its own unique circumstances, not only for the family, but more importantly for the person who requires support and care to help them live as ordinary a life as possible.

If you are facing an extraordinary situation, the question is 'Where do I turn for help?'. The first port of call is usually, and appropriately, Social Services, who will try to help find a solution.

Unfortunately, many changes are taking place in the care sector and more emphasis is placed on the individual to arrange their own carers. Herein lies the difficulty and possibly another dilemma for the family. CNCA has been helping people in Kent for more than 13 years, supporting families and their loved ones at home with qualified carers and support workers.

All staff undertake rigorous police and other statutory checks, a full induction process that examines both their qualifications and references and have regular training designed to keep them one step ahead of requirements.

Once a comprehensive needs assessment is carried out, the appropriate care is delivered and maintained.

CNCA operates a 24-hour service, 365 days a year, manned by care coordinators who have detailed knowledge of each individual's needs.

Kim Stevens, chief executive officer of CNCA, said: "We are committed to providing the best care services and care training in the region."

■ If you require help, phone 01233 619530, or, if you prefer, email info@communitynursingcareagency.co.uk.

LEARNING

Develop key skills for employment

WITH the jobs market as competitive as it is right now, the pressure is on employees to keep up their training – even when working.

Acquisition of new skills can make that next stage in the career ladder just that more obtainable. Or a better level of expertise can ensure fast-track promotions over those who have not had the foresight to look at ways to better their value to employers

There are two major ways forward – on-the-job training or out-of-work study.

Training has specific goals of improving one's capacity and performance. It forms the core of apprenticeships, which can combine both disciplines.

There are also additional services available online for those who wish to receive training above and beyond that which is offered by their employers. Some examples of these services include career counselling, skill-assessment and supportive services.

On-the-job training takes place in a normal working situation, using the actual equipment, documents or materials that trainees will use when they are doing the job. This kind of training has a general reputation as the most effective for vocational work.

However, it does depend on the ability of those who are actually doing the training. If they are busy themselves throughout the working day they may not be able to give the trainee the full attention he or she deserves.

UNDERSTANDING: Pick up skills on the job or in the classroom

If sufficient care is taken in the training process, then this can be an effective way of learning. Not only will best-practice skills be passed along but there will also be the opportunity to avoid the pitfalls that can befall a person at the start of their career.

Ideally the trainer will have seen and done it all – so, as well as explaining how best to go forward, they can also offer advice on how best to avoid falling back.

Out-of-work study takes place away from normal work situations, implying that the employee does not count as a directly productive worker while such training takes place.

So it can mean a college placement or night school – or even just one afternoon a week at a lecture. Off-the-job training has the advantage that it allows people to get away from work and concentrate more thoroughly on the training itself – meaning new ideas and concepts can more easily be taken on board away from the workplace.

Such training also gives the person taking part the chance to talk to others in the same situation. Classes may bring together young people from different companies all in the same line of work. So opportunities are there to compare workloads, share experiences and broaden horizons.

In some cases a combination of both of these methods can be to the best interest of both trainee and business – allowing a large amount of practical experience with the time to take a step sideways and explore alternative concepts and methods of working.

VICTIM SUPPORT

Volunteering boosts your experience

VICTIM Support is calling for new volunteers to help victims and witnesses of crime in Kent find the strength to move on with their lives.

Nobody chooses to become a victim of crime, but being in that situation can leave people in need of a range of support, from emotional help to needing information on the criminal-justice process and assistance in court.

Victim Support is a national charity, independent from the police and Government, which strives to give this support to all victims for free. Each year, the charity helps make a difference to 1.1 million victims in England and Wales – and volunteers are the lifeblood of this.

Volunteering with Victim Support is a great chance for people to give something back to their community and gain satisfaction from giving support to those reeling from the impact of being a victim – regardless of whether they have reported the crime to the police.

It can be hard knowing what to do next, let alone how to do it. Volunteers are especially trained and accredited to be able to answer those questions.

Our volunteers tell us they get great satisfaction from supporting victims of any crime, from theft and burglary to serious assaults and homicide. They develop essential skills through Victim Support's training, support and supervision. They get new opportunities such as learning more about crime, criminal justice and the legal system.

It's a great way to meet new people, and as Victim Support pays expenses it doesn't cost anything to volunteer – just your time and commitment .

Victim Support offers two main kinds of services. The first is direct emotional support. Our community volunteers help victims overcome the impact of crime in the immediate aftermath and support victims until they feel confident they no longer need our help.

The second service is the Witness Service, which operates in all courts throughout Kent. It gives information and help to all victims and witnesses called to give evidence in court – this can be a very daunting process.

Victim Support prides itself on its diversity, so volunteers of all backgrounds and communities are welcome – the only requirement is enthusiasm. Although we are looking to recruit volunteers with professional expertise in domestic violence, serious sexual violence and assault, as well as child support, we also always need volunteers who can bring other strengths to our organisation.

Volunteer roles available at the moment are: office administration volunteers, Ashford; media volunteer, Ashford; fund-raising volunteer, Ashford; community-engagement volunteer, across Kent; witness service support volunteer, Medway, Sevenoaks and Dartford.

For an informal chat or more information, please call Fiona Shaw on 01233 618005 or email her at Fiona.shaw@victimsupport.org.uk.

WELCOME HOST

In today's competitive markets, customer service determines the winners from the losers.

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WHAT'S INVOLVED?

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ESSENTIAL QUALITIES

- Hold a UK or European Union passport
- Hold a Manual PCV (cat D) licence
- Have good references and driving record
- Possess excellent people skills
- English speaking (fluent)
- Must work well as part of a team
- Have a genuine desire to succeed

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BeneCare

Residential Child Care and Fostering Services

At Benecare we provide a safe and protective environment for children and young people aged 8-18. We believe in true educational opportunity and have created homes which prioritise re-integration for the children in our care. Our care team are child care professionals and include qualified teaching staff who are dedicated to ensuring the best for the children we care for. Managed by a team of highly experienced Health and Social Care professionals, with public, private and voluntary care backgrounds, the delivery of services by Benecare is bound to be exceptional.

One of our residential homes, Ocean Lodge, achieved an **'OUTSTANDING'** rating from Ofsted in February 2010 in the category **'Keeping Children Safe'**

Our Services

- Educational planning and resourcing
- Residential assessments
- Remand placements / court reports
- Emergency and respite provision
- Medium to long term placements
- Specialised staff to children ratio 2:1 or 1:1
- Activities based programmes
- Pathway planning
- Escort and collection service
- Needs led admissions process - fast track solutions
- Flexibility in placement provision
- Specialised Service provision

We believe that each individual placement decision should be decided on the actual ability of the establishment to meet the agreed requirements of the child or young person.

We will be more than happy to discuss our service with you, or to visit your own office or team and hear your views on Residential Child Care. We believe that partnership planning should mean just that.

113a St John's Hill, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 3PE
Telephone: 01732 740088 (24 Hour response)
E-mail: headoffice@benecareltd.co.uk
www.benecareltd.co.uk

Nacro

Contact us at:
Newbridge House,
18 New Road Avenue,
Chatham,
Kent
ME4 6BA

Tel: (01634) 818305
or Text "KOS" to:
07973440756 or
07870265553

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TOURISM **WEEK**

LEISURE

Destinations encourage visitors to spend time and money here

TOURISM and its associated leisure industries comprise one of the most important factors in creating a booming economy – and 2012 is set to be a bumper year.

With both the London Olympics and Paralympics and The Queen's Diamond Jubilee, visitors will be flocking to Britain.

So it is also an opportunity for those starting on the career ladder to get involved in a business that is growing in importance – with significant input from the Government, which sees it as a growing source of economic activity.

Opportunities exist all across the board, from working to promote attractions to jobs in service industries. Historic buildings, ports, hotels, restaurants, city centres and leisure facilities all need staffing, and training courses in leisure and tourism are the best way forward to grasp the opportunities offered.

Kent has an important tourist industry – meaning that jobs are available locally.

As the gateway to Europe, opportunities in the fields of air, sea, rail and road travel are always there, too.

Then world-class sites such as Canterbury Cathedral, Dover, Rochester and Leeds castles, Chatham Historic Dockyard, Dickens World, Turner Contemporary and numerous others attract thousands of visitors each year.

The Government is committed to building up tourism and its associated industries for the future. Last year, ministers unveiled a four-year marketing campaign to boost the industry, aiming to bring in:

ATTRACTIONS: Clockwise from top left: Turner Contemporary, the historic city of Canterbury, The Marlowe Theatre and Eastwell Manor are among the county's many varied tourist destinations

- 1 million extra overseas visitors a year
- £2 billion more visitor spending in the UK
- 50,000 new jobs across the country

Companies including the likes of British Airways, DFDS, lastminute.com, P&O and Radisson Edwardian have pledged cash and payment in kind to help match the £50 million of public money already committed by tourism agency VisitBritain.

At a Downing Street reception to thank those already involved, Prime Minister David Cameron said: "This year will see the eyes of the world focused on Britain as never before.

"Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee and the London Olympic and Paralympic Games offer us a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, not just for national pride and celebration but also to promote this country as the perfect tourist destination, helping to create 50,000 new jobs and bring £2bn more visitor spending to the UK."

Earlier this year the Government outlined its commitment to a modern approach to tourism.

Tourism minister John Penrose said: "These days, people go to particular places – destinations, as we call them – not 'regions' for their holidays. They think nothing of moving around.

"Putting the emphasis back on to the customer – turning the tourist model on its head – doesn't just apply to holidaymakers. For us in Government, tourist businesses are our customers, too. They pay taxes to the Exchequer and are perfectly entitled to expect a proper say in our policy-making and decisions.

"These businesses come in all shapes and sizes. Many are small and more prone than most to founder when the economy suffers, and that's why we are very deliberately giving them a bigger stake – and a stronger voice – in the promotion of their local market.

"Small and medium-sized businesses can feel lost in the region-wide administrations that are purportedly their representatives.

"So we're out to create strong, sustainable and independent local tourism boards – forums where it's clearly in the interest of stakeholders large and small to get involved because there becomes a direct relationship between what members put in and what they get out.

"We will soon see an amazing coming together of events and circumstances that will put the UK in the spotlight as never before. It will be a fantastic opportunity for the tourism industry, and one that I know they will grab with both hands. Our strategy will make this easier for them to do so."

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ESSENTIAL QUALITIES

- Hold a UK or European Union passport
- Hold a Manual PCV (cat D) licence
- Have good references and driving record
- Possess excellent people skills
- English speaking (fluent)
- Must work well as part of a team
- Have a genuine desire to succeed

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Abbey Court School

"We grow people"

Abbey Court School provides a stimulating, challenging and safe learning environment where pupils and staff efforts, work and achievement are celebrated.

We are currently looking for an….

Occupational Therapist

to join and enhance our high calibre team

Medway Scale B2 - point 32 to 41 (£27,052 to £34,549)

(Full time - term time only - pro rata)

Abbey Court School is located on 2 sites; Rainham (Nursery and Primary) and Strood (Secondary and Further Education), and caters for pupils aged 3-19 with Severe Learning Difficulties. We are looking for an enthusiastic and experienced Occupational Therapist, with a professional and flexible approach. In essence, somebody with an interest in an educational setting who would like to work in a school committed to enabling pupils to reach their full potential.

Working hours are 37 hours p/w, term time only. Candidates should hold a relevant OT qualification. Benefits include: Local Authority pension scheme, induction training, performance management programme and Continuous Professional Development. Visits to the school are welcomed.

Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post.

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Closing Date: 9th July 2010

Interview Date: 19th July 2010

For an application pack, or to make an appointment to visit, please contact Mrs Linda Taylor, Business Manager, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent, ME2 3SP (01634 338236), stating the position for which you are applying.

Please note CV's will not be accepted.

Public Sector

You can also find the latest jobs online: www.jobs24.co.uk/kent

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PUBLIC/ COMMUNITY APPOINT

Westlands Academies Trust

WESTLANDS NURSERY

Johnson Road, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1JS

requires

2 Early Years Practitioners (NVQ 2 preferred)

One in the 2 -3 Year room from 9.00 am - 12.30 pm, Mon - Fri (17.5 hours per week)

One in the 3 - 5 year room from 9.00 am - 3.30 pm, Mon - Fri (30 hours per week)

Term time only

(Salary according to experience: £6.68 - £7.30 per hour)

Applicants should have the necessary skills to support these young pupils to develop their skills and achieve their early learning goals

(Playwork practice qualification would be useful)

You are welcome to contact Melissa Prince (01795 430629) for a preliminary discussion or visit, if desired. Recruitment packs are available from Westlands Primary School

or online at www.westlands.org.uk.

Please note, we cannot accept CVs without an application form.

Closing date for applications: 19 March 2012: Interviews: 23 March 2012.

Westlands Academies Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced CRB check.

Tel: 01795 470862 Fax: 01795 477886
Email: lnp@westlands.kent.sch.uk
Head of School: Mrs L Pearson BSc Hons
Manager of Nursery: Mrs Melissa Prince

Westlands Academies Trust Westlands Avenue Sittingbourne Kent ME10 1PF
Company No 7344732

Westlands Academies Trust

WESTLANDS NURSERY

Johnson Road, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1JS

requires staff for their Baby Room

2 Room Leaders (NVQ Level 3),
2 Practitioners (NVQ Level 3),
2 Practitioners (NVQ Level 2)

All with baby room experience

Room Leader £8.28 - £8.70; Level 3: £7.30 - £8.28; Level 2: £6.68 - £7.30 per hour.

Staff will be employed to either work Shift 1 or Shift 2 - Term time only.

Shift 1: 7.30 am - 1.00 pm; Shift 2: 12.30 pm - 6.00 pm (27.5 hours per week).

Applicants should have the necessary skills to support these young pupils to develop their skills and achieve their early learning goals.

You are welcome to contact Melissa Prince (01795 430629) for a preliminary discussion or visit, if desired. Recruitment packs are available from Westlands Primary School or online at www.westlands.org.uk. Please note, we cannot accept CVs without an application form.

Closing date for applications -19 March 2012: Interviews - 23 March 2012.

Westlands Academies Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced CRB check.

Tel: 01795 470862 Fax: 01795 477886 Email: lnp@westlands.kent.sch.uk
Head of School: Mrs L Pearson BSc Hons
Manager of Nursery: Mrs Melissa Prince

Westlands Academies Trust Westlands Avenue Sittingbourne Kent ME10 1PF Company No 7344732

THE NEW SCHOOL AT WEST HEATH SEVENOAKS

"Rebuilding lives through education"
Principal & Chief Executive: Mrs Christina Wells (BA Hons.)
Ashgrove Road, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1SR

The New School at West Heath provides education, therapy and residential care for male and female students from 11-19 years of age with emotional, behavioural and social communication difficulties

Due to the increase of residential care we currently have the following opportunities to join our well established Residential Care Team.

Support Worker

- Salary £17,672
- Full time term time only - 39 weeks
- Hours 1pm to 11pm Monday to Thursday and every 3rd Friday 10.30 to 4.30
- NVQ Level 3 or willingness to work towards

The New School at West Heath has just been awarded Outstanding from the recent Ofsted Welfare Inspection. Come and join the Outstanding Team

The Application form and job description can be found on the web site www.westheathschool.com or if you wish please contact Lynne McGrath on lynne.mcgrath@westheathschool.com or tel: 01732 460 553

Closing date for applications is 20th March 2012

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We are seeking outstanding individuals to join our highly qualified, experienced and motivated teams, many of whom have come from industry. We offer our students the best learning and training experience and we have the following vacancy available:

SKILLS PRACTITIONER (AUTOMOTIVE)

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Salary Scale: £8,567 - £10,123
for 18.5 hours per week, all year

Benefits include: Final salary contributory pension and 23 days pro rata holiday.

For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on 'Vacancies'. If you require assistance please telephone our application line on (01843) 605052

Closing date: Wednesday 7th March 2012

Interview date: Thursday 22nd March 2012

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PUBLIC/ COMMUNITY APPOINT

Career opportunities at MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

Lecturer in Hair — Ref: T0367

Salary: £24,043 - £29,020 pro rata (dependent on qualifications and experience)
18.5 hours per week - fixed term Maternity Cover contract
Medway

We are looking to recruit a passionate individual to teach assess and contribute to the development of Hair Design programmes on Levels 1 to 3. The applicant must have a relevant vocational/academic qualification and should hold or be willing to work towards a teaching qualification. Recent industry experience would be advantageous. Hourly paid positions also available.

Partnerships Administrator — Ref: TSN14

Salary: £15,891 - £19,464 per annum Fixed Term contract
Medway

We are looking to recruit an experienced administrator to join our busy Business Development Department. The successful candidate will work closely with the Partnerships Manager, processing and administering external contracts. The ideal candidate will have excellent ICT and communication skills.

Closing date: 12 noon Wednesday 28 March 2012

For an application pack and further details visit www.midkent.ac.uk or e mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively you may contact Human Resources on 01634 383102.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

MidKent College

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We pride ourselves on good customer service, professional marketing solutions and excellent business relationships. We provide innovative ideas that will in return give our clients real value and response.

Media experience is not essential as full training will be given, however good numeracy, literacy and computer skills are required.

We offer an excellent basic salary plus generous bonus scheme, ongoing training and career development, five weeks' annual leave, contributory pension and life assurance scheme and all the benefits of working for a large media organisation.

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Please apply in writing with your CV and covering letter to:
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THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Town and Country Planning Act
Notice of Applications

MA/12/0139/S - YEW TREE HOUSE RESIDENTIAL HOME, 9, STATION ROAD, HEADCORN, ASHFORD, KENT, TN27 9SB - Erection of a two storey extension to provide eight additional bedrooms with ancillary works together with the erection of a single-storey conservatory, en-suite, laundry area and car-parking for four cars, plus new/altered access. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/0163/N - 60, HIGH STREET, LENHAM, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 2QB - Erection of detached outbuilding. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/12/0193/N - THE FLOWER POT, 96, SANDLING ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 2RJ - Listed building consent for removal of internal stud walls (retrospective application). **Reason: 3**

MA/12/0221/N - LITTLE MOATENDEN, MAIDSTONE ROAD, HEADCORN, ASHFORD, KENT, TN27 9PT - Change of use of land to residential and erection of a three bay garage/store with room in the roof to provide home office. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/0224/N - GREEN COURT, THE STREET, BREDHURST, GILLINGHAM, KENT, ME7 3JY - Replacement of existing window with window/door combination and creation of sunken patio. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/0225/N - GREEN COURT, THE STREET, BREDHURST, GILLINGHAM, KENT, ME7 3JY - Listed Building consent for replacement of existing window with window/door combination and creation of sunken patio. **Reason: 3**

MA/12/0243/S - THE WILD DUCK, MARDEN THORN, MARDEN, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 9LH - Demolition of existing public house and erection of 2no detached dwellings with amenity space, garages and access. **Reason: 9**

MA/12/0253/S - THE THRESHING BARN, TANNER FARM, GOUDHURST ROAD, MARDEN, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 9ND - Change of use of Tanner Barn and outbuildings to form two dwellings, including change of use of agricultural land to residential. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/0254/S - THE THRESHING BARN, TANNER FARM, GOUDHURST ROAD, MARDEN, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 9ND - Listed building consent for works involved in the conversion of Tanner Barn and outbuildings to form two dwellings. **Reason: 3**

MA/12/0265/S - ALLINGTON CASTLE, CASTLE ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME16 0LX - A retrospective application for the formation of 5no wildlife ponds with post and rail fencing to boundary and formalisation and surfacing of car park area. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/0270/N - GUILDSTEAD LODGE, YELSTED LANE, SITTINGBOURNE, KENT, ME9 7UT - Removal of condition 7 of planning permission MA/03/0958 (the development hereby permitted shall only be used as holiday accommodation and shall not be occupied continuously by any person or persons for a period in excess of 28 days and shall not be occupied by any person or persons for more than a total of 112 days in any one calendar year (i.e. maximum of four separate 28 day periods). A written record of all lettings shall be kept and made available for inspection by the Local Planning Authority at their reasonable request) to allow use as single dwelling. **Reason: 1**

Reasons for advertisement key:
1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.
9 - Application does not accord with the Local Plan.

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Wednesday 8.30am to 5.30pm, Thursday 8.30am to 7pm, Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **25th March 2012**, quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, MaidstoneHouse, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 11th March 2012

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

KCC/SW/0066/2012 - Proposed development at Boughton-under-Blean and Dunkirk Primary School, School Lane, Boughton-Under-Blean, Faversham, Kent, ME13 9AW.

Boughton-under-Blean and Dunkirk Primary School is applying to Kent County Council (as the County Planning Authority) for planning permission for the replacement of front vehicular gates with new mechanically operated black metal gates. The proposed development is immediately adjacent to the Boughton Street Conservation Area and is therefore likely to affect its character and/or appearance.

You may view this application at Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 3HT.

Alternatively, details of the application can be viewed on Kent County Council's website at www.kent.gov.uk/viewapplications or at our offices in Maidstone at the address below during all reasonable office hours. Please note that our website will be unavailable between 12 noon on Friday 16 March until the end of Sunday 18 March 2012. Whilst maintenance is undertaken during this period, you can use an alternative website at http://host1.atriumsoft.com/ePlanningOPSkent/searchPageLoad.do

If you have any problems accessing this website please contact the Planning Applications Group on 01622 221061.

We accept comments online via our website, by email to planning.applications@kent.gov.uk or in writing to Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX within 24 days from the date of this notice. Please quote the application reference number and note that comments may be drawn to the attention of Council Members, the applicant and other interested persons and may include publishing on the Borough Council website.

Sharon Thompson
Head of Planning
Applications Group
Kent County Council
Dated: 11 March 2012

Public Notice

11 March 2012

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

Notice under Section 122(2A) Local Government Act 1972

Proposed appropriation of land at Kingsmead from open space to planning purposes

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Canterbury City Council intends to appropriate open space land at Kingsmead Canterbury, for planning purposes under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended). The area of land to be appropriated is described in the Schedule to this notice.

Members of the public who wish comment or object to the proposal should send their comments or objections to Mark Ellender, Legal and Democratic Services, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury Kent CT1 1YW in writing by 28 March 2012.

A plan identifying the land which the council is considering appropriating to planning purposes can be viewed at the council offices during normal opening hours.

SCHEDULE

1.912 hectares of land comprising of land adjoining Kingsmead Road, Broad Oak Road, Stonebridge Road and Ambleside Place.

Colin Carmichael, Chief Executive
Canterbury City Council
Military Road
Canterbury CT1 1YW

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Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

12/00317/HOUSE **Mile Oak Cottage Mile Oak Road, Brenchley**
- Demolition of existing rear extension and replace with a two storey extension with ground floor windows to north, south and west elevations, first floor window to west elevation and minor internal alterations (LB)

12/00319/LBC **Mile Oak Cottage Mile Oak Road, Brenchley**
- Listed Building Consent: Demolition of existing rear extension and replace with a two storey extension with ground floor windows to north, south and west elevations, first floor window to west elevation and minor internal alterations (LB)

12/00366/HOUSE **Eleven Plus Hungershall Park, Broadwater**
- Revision to existing drive to provide additional parking area and new technical access gates (CA)

12/00472/FUL **Flat 2 3A Nevill Park, Broadwater**
- Erection of detached outbuilding and relocation of summerhouse and shed with associated external works (CA)

11/03646/FUL **Land North Of Railway Line Whetsted Road, Capel**
- Barn and horse arena (MAJOR)

12/00325/LBC 72 **London Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Culverden**
- Listed Building Consent: Removal of stud walls and wardrobes and provision of en-suite toilet and shower and new bedroom door (LB)

12/00568/FUL **Garden House 11 Boyne Park, Culverden**
- Demolition of existing garage; Replacement garage and single-storey rear extension (CA)

12/00308/LBC **Phillips & Stubbs Estate Agents 6 Colonnade, Hawkhurst**
- Listed Building Consent - Installation of electricity supply box to be recessed to project below window on right hand of shopfront (LB)

12/00455/FULMJ **Longbrooks Farm Knowle Road, Paddock Wood**
- Development of sand school, stables and storage barn. Change of use of land from agriculture to equestrian (MAJOR) (PROW) (LB)

12/00565/HOUSE **11 Little Mount Sion Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Second floor projecting bay window to front elevation (CA) (LB)

12/00524/HOUSE **23 Princes Street Royal Tunbridge Wells, Park**
- Flat roof dormer extension (CA)

12/00376/HOUSE **Tadpoles Lomas Lane, Sandhurst**
- First floor extension with dormer window to front and rear and side window (LB)

12/00487/LBC **Little Hartridge Barn Paley Lane, Sissinghurst C/O Cranbrook Parish**
- Listed Building Consent - Proposed revised scheme to approved application TW/09/03536 for conversion of redundant cart lodges with link to single dwelling (LB)

12/00494/LBC **Lloyds TSB Bank Plc Lloyds Bank House, Sissinghurst C/O Cranbrook Parish**
- Listed Building Consent: Reconstruction of walls deemed to be unsafe by engineer works already commenced (LB)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

Jim Kehoe
Head of Planning Services
Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS
Dated: 10 March 2012

Planning applications

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

CA//11/02129/FUL: Whitstable Yacht Club, 3-4 Sea Wall, Whitstable, CT5 1BX Replacement of two timber dormer windows with uPVC windows. **Applicant: Mrs J Robinson** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/02188/FUL: 49 Shalloak Road, Broad Oak, Sturry, CT2 0QH Alterations and extensions to dwelling including first-floor extension to side, single-storey extension to rear, conversion of garage into home office and erection of detached garage to front. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Chapman** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//12/00033/LB: 21 Dane John, Canterbury, CT1 2QU Installation of satellite dish. **Applicant: Mr J Ellaby** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//12/00042/FUL: 2 The Chase, Joy Lane, Whitstable, CT5 4QX Single-storey side extension to dwelling. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs White** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/00055/FUL: Marsh House, St Peter's Road, Whitstable, CT5 1SU Demolition of existing flat block and garages and the erection of six residential flats and associated garages. (Revised scheme). **Applicant: Mr R Probert** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/00056/CAC: Marsh House, St Peter's Road, Whitstable, CT5 1SU Demolition of existing flat block and garages and the erection of six residential flats and associated garages. (Revised scheme). **Applicant: Mr R Probert** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/00161/OUT: Tankerton Evangelical Church, 154 Northwood Road, Whitstable, CT5 2HF Demolition of church and bungalow and erection of 12 apartments with associated parking and amenity space. (Outline application). **Applicant: Tankerton Evangelical Church** Reason: Major development.
CA//12/00164/FUL: 17 Sydenham Street, Whitstable, CT5 1HW Replacement single-storey rear extension, dormer to rear roof slope and alterations to front dormer. **Applicant: Mr Langford** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/00176/FUL: 4 Roper Yard, Roper Road, Canterbury, CT2 7EX Installation of photo voltaic solar panels and support frame on existing roof. (Retrospective application). **Applicant: Comco Properties** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/00192/FUL: Oxenleigh, Oxenden Square, Herne Bay, CT6 8TW Demolition of garage and erection of two-storey side extension with integral garage. **Applicant: J Keary** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/00194/LB: 58 Ivy Lane, Canterbury, CT1 1TU Internal alterations. **Applicant: c/o Design ID** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//12/00196/LB: 36 St Peter's Place, Canterbury, CT1 2DA Replacement windows to front of property with associated alterations to openings, replacement of external render and internal alterations. **Applicant: Mr Meiklejohn** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//12/00228/FUL: Rest Haven, 30 Sea Wall, Whitstable, CT5 1BX Replacement front door and restoration of fanlight over. **Applicant: Mr Dugmore** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/00350/LB: 49 Shalloak Road, Broad Oak, Sturry, CT2 0QH Alterations and extensions to dwelling including first-floor extension to side, single-storey extension to rear, conversion of garage into home office and erection of detached garage to front. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Chapman** Reason: Work to a listed building.

Any representations should be sent in writing to the Head of Planning and Regeneration, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW or e-mailed to **development.control@canterbury.gov.uk** to arrive on or before **Monday 2 April 2012.**

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at: **www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc**

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration
Friday 9 March 2012

To place your notice here, call the Kent Public Notice team on 01303 817044

MARRIAGE LICENCES

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **The Burlington Hotel, Earls Avenue, Folkestone**

Applicant: **Angelo Sangiuseppe**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey
Head of Registration
Regulatory Services
First Floor, Invicta House,
Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **Great Maytham Hall, Rolvenden, Cranbrook**

Applicant: **Roger Watts**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey
Head of Registration
Regulatory Services
First Floor, Invicta House,
Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **Queens Head, High Street, Sutton Valence, Maidstone**

Applicant: **Mr David Ewen**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the grant of an approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey
Head of Registration
1st Floor, Invicta House,
Maidstone, ME14 1XX

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made by Ms Linda Weeks of Brogues Gate, Cranbrook Road, Biddenden to Kent County Council, to grant an approval for a ceremony at this premise.

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the grant of an approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper.

Objections should be sent to the following address
Giles Adey, Head of Registration,
Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **Leeds Castle, Maidstone**

Applicant: **Debbie Matthews**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey
Head of Registration
Regulatory Services
First Floor, Invicta House,
Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **West Faversham Community Centre, Bysing Wood Road, Faversham**

Applicant: **Mr David White**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the grant of an approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey
Head of Registration
1st Floor, Invicta House,
Maidstone, ME14 1XX

To place your notice here call the Kent Public Notice team on 01303 817044

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY & VILLAGE GREENS

PROW - BOROUGH OF ASHFORD

NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH AE644 IN THE PARISHES OF BILSINGTON AND BONNINGTON

(PUBLIC FOOTPATH AE644) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, SECTION 14(1) AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close Public Footpath AE644 between Bilsington Bridge and Bonnington Bridge from the 23rd March 2012.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen before 23rd April 2012.

The path is to be closed because works are planned on or near it to repair a collapsed culvert and there is a likelihood of danger to path users.

The alternative route is to head north from Bilsington Bridge and turn right onto the B2067, continue for approximately 1.0 kilometre to the Bonnington Road junction, turn right down Bonnington Road to Bonnington Bridge.

For further enquiries please contact Melvyn Twycross.

PROW - IN THE DISTRICT OF CANTERBURY

NOTICE OF MODIFICATION ORDER WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981 DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT FOR THE COUNTY OF KENT

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(PUBLIC FOOTPATH CW91 AT WHITSTABLE AND CHESTFIELD) DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDER 2012

The above Order was made on 6th March 2012 under section 53 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. If confirmed, it will modify the Definitive Map and Statement for the area by downgrading to Public Footpath status that length of Restricted Byway CW38 (known as Grasmere Road) at Whitstable and Chestfield commencing at its junction with Blackberry Way and running in a west-south-westerly through westerly direction for 485 metres to its junction at Shepherd's Walk. All distances are approximate, all directions are general.

A copy of the Order and Map may be seen free of charge during normal office hours at the offices of Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury, Kent CT1 1YW or at Kent Council Council, Countryside Access Service, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX. Copies of the Order and Map may also be purchased there.

Any representation about or objection to the Order must be sent or delivered in writing to Miss. Melanie McNeir at Kent County Council (address as below) no later than Monday 23rd April 2012. Please state the grounds on which they are made.

Please note that objections/representations cannot be treated as confidential and may come into the public domain. Copies of any objections or representations received may be disclosed to interested parties, including the Planning Inspectorate where the case is referred to it for determination.

If no such representations or objections are duly made to the Order (or to any part of it), or if any so made are withdrawn, the Kent County Council, instead of submitting the Order to the Secretary of State (or part of it if the Authority has by Notice to the Secretary of State so elected under paragraph 5 of schedule 15 to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981) may itself confirm the Order (or that part of the Order). If the Order is sent to the Secretary of State for the Environment (in whole or in part), any representations or objections which have been duly made and not been withdrawn will be sent with it.

VILLAGE GREENS - IN THE DISTRICT OF CANTERBURY

NOTICE OF PUBLIC LOCAL INQUIRY

COMMONS ACT 2006 - SECTION 15(1)

APPLICATION TO REGISTER LAND KNOWN AS GRASMERE PASTURES AT WHITSTABLE AS A TOWN OR VILLAGE GREEN

Notice is hereby given that the Public Inquiry into the above matter, which commenced on Monday 5th September 2011, has been adjourned and will resume on:

Tuesday 17th April 2012 at 10.00am at Whitstable Castle, Tower Hill, Whitstable, Kent CT5 2BW

A copy of the Inspector's Directions (dated 24th May 2011), as well as the further Directions of the Inspector (dated 21st October 2011), setting out the procedure to be followed for the submission of evidence and the format that the Public Inquiry will take is available on the County Council's website at www.kent.gov.uk/villagegreens.

Countryside Access Service
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX

Dated: 11 March 2012

This document is available in alternative formats and can be explained in a range of languages.

For further information, please contact Kent Countryside Access Service, on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess

Kent County Council

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ARCHANT KOS MEDIA

HIGHWAYS - District of Ashford

STATION ROAD, SMEETH, ASHFORD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of the refurbishment of the bridge deck over the M20, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Station Road, Smeeth, Ashford, on or after 26 March 2012 for up to 2 nights, between 8.00 pm and 6.00 am each night.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the bridge over the M20 Motorway.

Temporary traffic lights are likely to be required during daytime for the protection of the recently installed materials.

The alternative route is via Station Road, A20 Hythe Road, The Street (Mersham), Bower Road and Station Road.

HIGHWAYS - Districts of Ashford & Shepway

PLAIN ROAD, SELLINDGE / SMEETH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of the installation of a new electricity supply cable, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Plain Road, Sellindge / Smeeth, on or after 30 March 2012 for up to 4 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Cooper's Lane and Granary Court Road.

There will be no access for through traffic between the A20 and Brabourne Lees.

The alternative route is via Stone Hill, A20 Hythe Road, Church Road, Woolpack Hill and Plain Road.

Limited access will remain to Southenay Road from Plain Road for most of the time, but a diversion via Moorstock Lane, Cock Ash Lane and Broad Street is likely to be in place when the final section of Plain Road is closed.

HIGHWAYS - District of Canterbury

A28 BROAD STREET / LOWER BRIDGE STREET, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow safe access to a frame and cover in the carriageway for phone cable repairs, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting southbound through traffic on the A28 Broad Street / Lower Bridge Street, Canterbury, on or after 12 March 2012 for up to 1 night, between 8.00 pm and 6.00 am.

A28 BROAD STREET / LOWER BRIDGE STREET will be closed southbound from the junction with Lady Wootton's Green to St George's Roundabout.

LADY WOOTTON'S GREEN will be closed westbound only (i.e. towards the ring road).

MONASTERY STREET will become one-way southbound only, from the junction with Lady Wootton's Green to the junction with Longport.

LONGPORT will become one-way eastbound only, between the junctions with Monastery Street and Lower Chantry Lane.

The alternative route is via Lady Wootton's Green, Monastery Street, Longport, Lower Chantry Lane, St George's Place, A2050 New Dover Road and Old Dover Road.

Local diversions will be in place for side roads, as signposted on site.

CANTERBURY ROAD & BORSTAL HILL, WHITSTABLE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway resurfacing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on B2205 Canterbury Road & Borstal Hill, Whitstable, on or after 28 March 2012 for up to 4 nights, between 7.00 pm and midnight.

Canterbury Road & Borstal Hill will be closed in phases between the junctions with Gordon Road and Belmont Road.

The alternative routes for through traffic are as shown below.

VEHICLES UNDER 13' 3" (4.0 M)

Northbound via B2205 Borstal Hill, A2990 Thanet Way, Herne Bay Road (note 13' 3" height restriction), St Swithin's Road, Tankerton Road, Tower Parade, Harbour Street, High Street and Oxford Street

Southbound via Cromwell Road, B2205 Tower Parade, Tankerton Road, Bennells Avenue, Herne Bay Road (note 13' 3" height restriction), A2990 Thanet Way and Borstal Hill.

VEHICLES OVER 13' 3" (4.0 M)

Traffic taller than 13' 3" will need to continue on the A2990 to Greenhill Bridge Road, Sea Street, Whitstable Road, Colewood Road and St John's Road.

Certain side roads may need to be closed at their junctions with Canterbury Road as the works progress, with local diversions set up wherever possible.

DOUGLAS AVENUE, WHITSTABLE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Douglas Avenue, Whitstable, on or after 29 March 2012 for up to 2 days, between 7.00 am and 7.00 pm.

The road will be closed in phases for its entire length.

The alternative route is via Linden Avenue, Seymour Avenue and Old Bridge Road.

DOVER STREET, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of the removal of a tower crane, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Dover Street, Canterbury, on or after Sunday 1 April 2012 for up to 1 day.

The road will be closed between entrance to car park and the junction with Vernon Place.

The alternative route is via Upper Bridge Street, Old Dover Road and Vernon Place.

The One-way Traffic Order in respect of Dover Street will be suspended from Upper Bridge Street to the point of closure, for access only.

If adverse conditions prevent the works going ahead on the date above, they will be deferred until one of the following 2 Sundays, as advised locally and on site.

HOADES WOOD ROAD, STURRY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Hoades Wood Road, Sturry, on or after 26 March 2012 for up to 3 days, between 7.00 am and 7.00 pm.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Babs Oak Hill and Cedar Road.

The alternative route is via Babs Oak Hill, A28 Island Road, Homewood Road and Cedar Road.

MARINE PARADE, WHITSTABLE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to install traffic calming, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Marine Parade, Whitstable, on or after 26 March 2012 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the junction with St Anne's Road.

The alternative route is via Cliff Road, Tankerton Road, and St Anne's Road.

The One-way Traffic Order in respect of Marine Parade will be suspended between the junctions with Cliff Road and St Anne's Road for access only.

A290 ST DUNSTAN'S STREET AND ST PETER'S PLACE, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of construction works prior to the implementation of an environmental improvement scheme, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on the A290 St Dunstan's Street and St Peter's Place, Canterbury, on or after 13 March 2012 for up to 9 weekday nights, between 8.00 pm and 5.30 am each night.

St Dunstan's Street and St Peter's Place will be closed between the junctions with North Lane and St Peter's Street (in the vicinity of the Westgate Towers).

There will be no through access between North Lane and St Peter's Street

The alternative route is via Rheims Way, London Road and St Dunstan's Street

Pound Lane will be closed at the junction with St Dunstan's Street.

The alternative route is via The Causeway and North Lane.

STOUR STREET, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway excavations to check water connections, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Stour Street, Canterbury, on or after 26 March 2012 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed to through traffic in the vicinity of Stour Court.

The alternative route is via Stour Street, Rosemary Lane, A28 Pin Hill, Rhodaus Town, Watling Street and Beer Cart Lane.

A28 WINCHEAP / THANINGTON ROAD, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of remedial carriagway surfacing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on A28 Wincheap / Thanington Road, Canterbury, on or after 29 March 2012 for up to 2 nights, between 8.00 pm and midnight each night.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Simmonds Road and the A2 on-slip.

The alternative route is via Ten Perch Road, The Boundary, Cow Lane and Simmonds Road.

Local side roads may be closed at their junctions with Wincheap at certain times as the works progress. This will be signposted on site, with local diversions.

The One-way Traffic Order in respect of York Road will be suspended when it is closed at the junction with Wincheap, to allow traffic to exit.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Dartford

HYTHE STREET, DARTFORD (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Hythe Street, Dartford.

The Order will become effective on, 29th March 2012 will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months. The closure will be in operation for 2 days from the hours of 22:00hrs - 06:00hrs. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route during the above restriction will be via: Hythe Street, Mill Pond Road, Temple Hill, Temple Hill Square, St Vincent Road, A226 and Home Gardens

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate Railway Bridge examination.

HIGHWAYS - District of Dover

CAPEL STREET, CAPEL-LE-FERNE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Capel Street, Capel-le-Ferne, from 14 March 2012 until 22 March 2012 inclusive.

It is anticipated the road will be closed weekdays only, between 9.30 am and 3.00 pm each day with the road re-opened outside these hours.

The road will be closed between the junction with New Dover Road and the bridge over the A20 Trunk Road.

The alternative route is via Cauldham Lane, Swinge Hill and Hockley Sole Lane.

HIGH STREET, DEAL (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway pre-patching works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on High Street, Deal, on or after 18 March 2012 for up to 2 days, between 7.00 am and 7.00 pm.

The road will be closed between the junctions with King Street and Oak Street.

The alternative route is via Beach Street, Godwyn Road, Sandown Road and High Street.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, DOVER DISTRICT) (WAITING RESTRICTIONS AND STREET PARKING PLACES) CONSOLIDATION (AMENDMENT NO 7) ORDER 2011

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL has made the above named Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), 45, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The effect of the Order is:-

1. Fulbert Road junction with Rokesley Road, Dover. Proposed double yellow lines at junction
2. Fulbert Road, Dover. Proposed double yellow lines

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for making the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8DH, between 9am and 5.00pm, and at Dover District Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover, Kent, CT16 3PJ

The order was made on 15 March 2012 and will come into force on 19 March 2012.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make an application to the High Court for this purpose.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, DOVER DISTRICT) (WAITING RESTRICTIONS AND STREET PARKING PLACES) CONSOLIDATION (AMENDMENT NO 10) ORDER 2012

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL has made the above named Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), 45, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The effect of the Order is:-

Location	Proposal
Fulbert Road / Melbourne Avenue, Dover	Double yellow lines at the junction
Paradise Row, Sandwich	Double Yellow lines from the junction with Strand Street for a distance of 40m

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended and a statement of reasons for making the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8DH, between 9am and 5.00pm, and at Dover District Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover, Kent, CT16 3PJ

The order was made on 15 March 2012 and will come into force on 19 March 2012

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make an application to the High Court for this purpose.

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Maidstone

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (PILGRIMS WAY, HOLLINGBOURNE) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Pilgrims Way from the junction of B2163 Upper Street to outside Lime Trees on or after Monday 26th March 2012 for a period of up to 5 days and Broad Street Hill west for 50 metres on or after Monday 2nd April 2012 for a period of up to 3 weeks or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Pilgrims Way, Water Lane, Roundwell, A20 Ashford Road, Eyhorne Street, Pilgrims Way.

UK Power Networks and KCC Highways apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to install a low voltage cable in the carriageway and a new soak away to prevent flooding. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Derek Petts of UKPN on 01622 632519 and Jamie Finch of KCC on 08458 247 800.

HIGHWAYS - Boroughs of Maidstone, Tonbridge & Malling, Dartford, Gravesham and In the District of Sevenoaks

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, MAIDSTONE, TONBRIDGE & MALLING, DARTFORD, GRAVESHAM, SEVENOAKS) (50MPH SPEED RESTRICTION) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because of the likelihood of danger to the public using a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic travelling at any speed greater than 50mph on the routes described in the Schedule.

The Order will become effective on Sunday 1st April 2012, and will remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months. The restriction will be in operation at times when required during this period as indicated by signage on site.

Schedule

Road Name:	A206 Bob Dunn Way, Dartford
Extent:	From the A282 to the roundabout with the A2026 Burnham Road
Road Name:	A289 Hasted Road, Gravesend (Wainscott Bypass)
Extent:	From M2 junction 1 to the Dillywood Lane Bridge
Road Name:	A2018 Shepherd Lane, Dartford
Extent:	From the roundabout of the A2 to the existing 40mph speed limit 100m before the roundabout with Rochester Way
Road Name:	A229 Bluebell Hill
Extent:	From the existing 50mph speed limit 30m Maidstone side of the Cobtree Manor Park entrance to the existing 50mph speed restriction 1/4mile from the M2 junction 3
Road Name:	A249 Detling Hill M2 to Bearsted Road, Maidstone
Extent:	From the roundabout with Bearsted Road (Newnham Court Farm) to existing 50mph speed limit 250m Detling side of Harple Lane From existing 50mph speed limit 40m Detling side of Osbourne Drive
Road Name:	A20 Ashford Road, Maidstone
Extent:	From Old Mill Road to 50m Ashford side of the roundabout with the B2163 Penfold Hill
Road Name:	A20 Coldharbour Lane, Maidstone
Extent:	From the roundabout of the M20 junction 5 to the roundabout of the A20 London Road From the A20 London Road to the roundabout with St Laurence Road
Road Name:	A228 Snodland Bypass
Extent:	From outside Whittings Farm to the existing 40mph outside the Water Treatment works
Road Name:	A228 Hale Street Bypass
Extent:	From the roundabout with the B2015 to the roundabout with the B2160 Maidstone Road
Road Name:	A25 Sevenoaks Road, Ightham
Extent:	From junction with Rectory Lane to the junction of Pilar Box Lane
Road Name:	A25 Ightham Bypass, Ightham
Extent:	From the junction of Rectory Lane to the junction of Borough Green Road
Road Name:	A20 London Road
Extent:	From M25 junction 3 to A225 Dartford Road
Road Name:	A225 Sevenoaks Road, Otford
Extent:	From Riverside Retail Park to Bebblestone Road

Kent County Council Highways apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary for carriageway maintenance works. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Steve Clark of Enterprise Plc on 08458 247 800.

HIGHWAYS - District of Sevenoaks

HORTON ROAD AND NEW ROAD, SOUTH DARENTH (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Horton Road and New Road, South Darenth at the junction of Station Road/East Hill.

The Order will become effective on 11 March 2012, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence 12 March 2012 and will last approx 2 weeks. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Holmesdale Road, Devon Road, Cedar Drive, A225 Main Road Sutton at Hone, Station Road and Horton Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate carriageway resurfacing works.

VARIOUS ROADS, WEST KINGSDOWN - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst an event is carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Various Roads, West Kingsdown as noted in schedule 1.

The Order will become effective on 26 March 2012, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 12 months; the event is planned to last as noted in the schedule. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: as noted in schedule 1.

Schedule 1

Restriction:	Temporary One Way Order Eastbound from 06.00 - 22.00 hours.
Road Name:	Scratchers Lane, West Kingsdown.
Extent:	From its junction with A20 London Road/Gorse Hill to its junction with Three Gates Lane.
Diversion:	A20 London Road and Fawkham Road. Traffic lights will also be placed at the junction of A20 London Road and Gorse Hill that will be manually controlled between 06.00 - 22.00 hours to assist vehicles leaving Brands Hatch Race Circuit.
Restriction:	30mph Speed Limit from 06.00 - 22.00 hours.
Road Name:	A20 London Road/Gorse Hill, West Kingsdown.
Extent:	Between W J Kings Garage London Road, Farningham and Twenty Mile Texaco Petrol Station, West Kingsdown.
Restriction:	Suspend Cycle Lane Order from 06.00 - 22.00 hours.
Road Name:	A20 London Road/ Gorse Hill, West Kingsdown.
Extent 1:	Between Twenty Mile Texaco Petrol Station and Scratchers Lane.
Extent 2:	Between Scratchers Lane and Twenty Mile Texaco Petrol Station.
Diversion:	Cyclists should dismount and walk along the pavement for the length of the restriction.
Restriction: 1:	No Right Turn from 06.00 - 22.00 hours. Into Donkey Lane southbound from A20 London Road/Gorse Hill.
2:	Out of Donkey Lane onto A20 London Road/Gorse Hill.
Dates:	1st April, 9th April, 20th May, 22nd July, 14th October, 21st October and 4th November 2012.

The purpose of the restrictions is to facilitate safety to road users and members of the public.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Swale

CLOCK HOUSE LEVEL CROSSING, BOUGHTON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to replace the rails at the level crossing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Clock House Level Crossing, Boughton, on or after 1 April 2012, as shown below.

The planned closure times are from Sunday 1 April at 2.00 am until Monday 2 April 2012 at 2.00 am.

Clockhouse Lane, Boughton will be closed at the Level Crossing.

The alternative route is via Clockhouse Lane, Selling Road and Brenley Lane.

WESTERN AVENUE, SHEERNESS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of drainage improvement works to alleviate flooding, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Western Avenue, Sheerness, on or after 12 March 2012 for up to 4 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between property 2A Western Avenue and the junction with Queenborough Rd.

The alternative route is via Queenborough Road, Belmont Road and Hilda Road.

HIGHWAYS - District of Thanet

CRESCENT ROAD, BIRCHINGTON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching and micro-surfacing, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Crescent Road, Birchington.

It is planned the road will be closed on 13, 15 and 16 March 2012, between 7.00 am and 7.00 pm each day.

The road will be closed in phases for its entire length.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with Station Road and Albion Road.

The alternative route is via Station Road and Albion Road.

DANE HILL GROVE, MARGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Dane Hill Grove, Margate, on or after 12 March 2012 for up to 3 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in phases for its entire length.

There is no alternative route as the road is a cul-de-sac.

Every effort will be made to maintain as much access as possible, whenever it is safe to do so, but there may be some times when cannot be achieved.

HAINE ROAD, RAMSGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of overhead electricity cable works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Haine Road, Ramsgate, on or after 12 March 2012 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between Rose Farm and Haine Farm (including Coldswood Road).

There will be no through access between both junctions with New Haine Road.

The alternative route is via A256 New Haine Road.

UNION ROW & PUMP LANE, MARGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs and pre-patching, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Union Row & Pump Lane, Margate, on or after 12 March 2012 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The alternative routes are

Eastbound via Hawley Street, Union Crescent and Addington Street.

Westbound via Addington Street, King Street and Hawley Street.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (COMMON ROAD, IGHTHAM) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Common Road from Copt Hall Road to Sandy Lane on or after Monday 12th March 2012 for a period of up to 1 day or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Copt Hall Road, Coach Road, Sandy Lane.

BT Openreach and KCC Highways apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to access overhead cabling to provide a new service and carriageway patching. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact for BT is Rachel Cross on 03700 500792 and for KCC Highways is Louise Codman on 08458 247 800.

HIGHWAYS - District of Tunbridge Wells

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, CAPEL, TUNBRIDGE WELLS) (SPEED LIMITS) ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

Notice is hereby given that the KENT COUNTY COUNCIL acting as the local authority and in exercise of their powers under sections 82 and 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, (hereinafter called "the Act") and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the Chief Officer of Police in accordance with paragraph 20 of Part III of Schedule 9 to the said Act of 1984, hereby makes the following Order.

The effect of the proposed Order will introduce various speed limits on the following road or lengths of road;

Schedule 1
(Restricted Roads)

B2017 Five Oak Green Road	Between a point 160 metres southeast of it junction with Falmouth Place to a point 65 metres west of its junction with Church Lane.

Schedule 2
(Roads subject to a speed limit of 40 mph)

B2017 Badsell Road	Between a point 160 metres southeast of its junction with Falmouth Place and a point 85 metres northwest of its junction with A228 Maidstone Road.
A228 Colts Hill	Between a point 500 metres southwest of it junction with Alders Road to a point 670 metres northeast of that junction.

Schedule 3
(Roads subject to a speed limit of 50 mph)

B2017 Five Oak Green Road	From its junction with A26 Woodgate Way to a point 315 metres west of its junction with Hartlake Road.

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Sessions House, Maidstone ME14 1XQ, between 8.30am and 5.00pm and at Tunbridge Wells Borough Council Offices, Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent during normal opening times.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose.

John Burr
Director Kent Highways
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ

Dated 11th March 2012

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council

PREMISES/ GOODS LICENCES

Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council

The Kent County Council (Various Roads, Tonbridge and Malling)(Waiting Restrictions & On-street Parking Places)(Consolidation) Order 2011

NOTICE OF VARIATION

Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council, acting as agents for **Kent County Council**, hereby gives notice that, pursuant of section 46A of the Road Traffic Regulation Act, 1984, it is to amend the yearly charges for permits to park vehicles at designated parking places (on street), which are listed in the **Schedules** of the above Order, as detailed below.

Residents' Preferential Parking Permits (RPPP's) - at under mentioned locations	Current charge per year for RPPP's	New charge per year for RPPP's
Blue Bell Hill Village; Borough Green; East Malling; West Malling & Tonbridge.	£30	£35
Businesses' Permits (BP's) at under mentioned locations	**Current charge per year for BP's**	**New charge per year for BP's**
Blue Bell Hill Village; Borough Green; East Malling & Tonbridge	£120	£130

There are no other variations to on-street parking charges, or to the applicable penalty charges. The new charges imposed by this Notice shall come into force on **Sunday** the **1st April, 2012.**

If you have any questions concerning this notice, require further information or have difficulty in reading this notice, please contact, during normal office hours, the Parking Manager **tel**: (01732) 876260, **email**: parking.office@tmbc.gov.uk; **fax**: (01732) 876105; **minicom**: (01732) 874958; **SMS text message**: 07781 482959 or by **post**: Parking Manager, Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council, Tonbridge Castle, Castle Street, Tonbridge, TN91BG.

David Hughes
Chief Executive

11th March, 2012

ASHFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL GENERAL FUND BUDGET 2012/2013 AND COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTIONS 2012/2013 NOTICE OF DECISION

Introduction

At the meeting of the Council held on the 16th February 2012 consideration was given to the recommendations of the Cabinet contained within Minute No. 323/2/12 regarding the General Fund Budget for 2012/2013 and the recommended level of Council Tax at Band D for the Ashford Borough Council proportion of the overall area covered by it as the Billing Authority. A separate report submitted to the Council meeting by the Deputy Chief Executive and the Finance Manager detailed the proposed Council Tax level as it related to the Ashford Borough Council proportion at a figure of £140.67 for a Band D equivalent property, frozen from 2011/12 and 2010/11. The report also set out the total demand after taking into account the precepts of the Kent County Council, Kent Police Authority, Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Authority and Parish Councils.

Council Decision

At the meeting of the Council held on the 16th February 2012 the resolutions before the meeting relating to the 2012/13 Council Tax were approved without amendment.

Budgetary and Policy Framework Rules - Constitution

In accordance with Part 4 Rules of Procedure - Budgetary and Policy Framework Procedure Rules 2 (e) - (h) this decision is formally published on the 17th February 2012 and the Council's decision is effective immediately.

17th February 2012

Notice is hereby given that Raja Manoharadhas of 28 Dickens Road Gravesend Kent DA12 2JY has applied to Gravesham Borough Council for the GRANT of an alcohol for the premises Currys & Dosa situated at 65 Wrotham Road Gravesend Kent DA11 0QB

A register of licensing applications can be inspected at http://www.gravesham.gov.uk/licensing or at Civic Centre, Windmill Street, Gravesend, Kent DA12 1AU tel. 01474 337334 by appointment with the Licensing Team between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday.

Any person wishing to submit representations to my/our application must give notice in writing to the address shown above, giving in detail the grounds of objection by 21 /03/2012

The Council will not entertain representations where the writer requests that his identity remains anonymous. Copies of all representations will be included in the papers presented to the Licensing Panel and will therefore pass into the public domain. Representations must relate to one of the four Licensing Objectives: the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, the prevention of public nuisance and the protection of children from harm. In the case of an application for a provisional statement, please note that representations will be restricted once a statement has been issued.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS BOROUGH COUNCIL, in accordance with the provisions of s.53 (2) & 70(3)(a)(b) of The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1976 HEREBY GIVE NOTICE that the fees chargeable under the above for the grant of hackney carriage and private hire vehicle , driver licences and private hire operator licences, together with additional costs appertaining to such licences, shall be varied from 10 April 2012 as below:-

Fee increase from 10 April 2012

Type of fee	Current fees	New fee
Vehicle Inspection & Registration	£42	£43
Vehicle plate external & internal Includes holder	£48	£49
Vehicle compliance test x two tests	£122	£122
Vehicle Licence	£78	£80
Total 1st application fee	£290	£294

Type of fee	Current fees	New fee
Transfer of licence plate	£41	£42
Plate	£23	£23
Holder	£16.80	£17.50
Internal Plate	£8.00	£8.00
Internal plate holder	£1.70	£1.75

Type of fee	Current fees	New fee
Vehicle Re-licence (currently £280 less vehicle registration)	£252	£259
Vehicle exemption certificate	£42	£43
Change of Ownership of Licensed Vehicle	£42	£43.50

Type of fee	Current fees	New fee
Operator's fees are for a period of 3 years		
One vehicle	£164	£169
Up to five vehicles	£308	£317
For six or more vehicles	£64	£66

Type of fee	Current fees	New fee
First time drivers licence period of 3 years	£162	£167
Re-licence drivers licence period of 3 years	£155	£159
Driver badge replacement	£8.70	£9.00

Type of fee	Current fees	New fee
Door transfers PHV only (per transfer)	£7.50	£7.50
Door transfers PHV only (per magnetic transfer)	£12.50	£12.50

Type of fee	Current fees	New fee
General administration fee	£41	£42

Type of fee	Current fees	New fee
Attempting "Knowledge Tests" after two failures	£45 for each attempt	£45 for each attempt

A copy of this Notice shall, for a period of **twenty-eight days from the date of first publication**, be deposited at Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 1RS

Persons wishing to make objections to these proposals may do so in writing to the undersigned by 6 April 2012

Licensing Partnership P.O. Box 182 Sevenoaks Kent TN13 1GP
licensing@sevenoaks.gov.uk

Swale BOROUGH COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

Swale Borough Council as Local Planning Authority has received the following applications which are being advertised to ascertain the views of persons living near the sites and other interested parties. The proposed developments relate to one or more of the following:

1. The site of the application is within/affecting a designated Conservation Area (Section 73) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
2. The proposed development may affect the Listed Building or it's setting.
3. The application is for a Major Development.
4. The application would affect a right of way to which Part III of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) applies.
6. This application may be of wider public interest.

REPRESENTATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 26 MARCH 2012

SW/12/0165:
2 general purpose agricultural buildings and erection of landscaping mounds - Wall End Farm, Lower Road, MINSTER; **REASONS 3 & 6**

SW/12/0217:
Demolition and replacement of existing building for use as a tractor and implement store - Land r/o 24 Wallbridge Lane, UPCHURCH; **REASONS 3 & 4**

SW/12/0221:
Toilet block with shower facilities on Faversham Scouts Association Activity Centre - Faversham Scouts Association, Activity Centre, Plumford Lane, SHELDWICH; **REASON 3**

SW/12/0231 &
SW/12/0236:
Conversion of existing semi-detached Grade II Listed houses into 4 one and two bedroom self-contained apartments with associated car parking to the rear and including the retention of the William Barrows Charitable Trust Boardroom and creation of modest ancillary facilities supporting that function - Forge House/Barrow House, The Street, BORDEN; **REASONS 1 & 2**

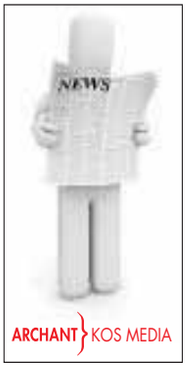
SW/12/0238 &
SW/12/0239:
Demolition of existing single storey extension and garage occupying the land adjacent No.56 Abbey Street, and replacement with a new two storey end of terrace house - 56 Abbey Street, FAVERSHAM; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/12/0250:
Alterations to shopfront to form separate access to first floor - 91 Preston Street, FAVERSHAM; **REASONS 1 & 2**

Particulars of the proposal(s) can be obtained from Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, where copies of the applications and all documents submitted with them may be inspected during office hours; any representations should be made in writing to this address.

James Freeman
Head of Planning

Stuart Kilby trading as S R Kilby Contractors of Oldbury Nursery, Brissenden Green Lane, Bethersden Ashford Kent TN26 3BJ is applying for a licence to use 2 Goods Vehicles and 1 trailer and to use Oldbury Nursery, Brissenden Green Lane, Bethersden Ashford Kent TN26 3BJ as an operating centre for 2 goods vehicles and 1 trailer. Owners and occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre who believe their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representation to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Hare hills lane, Leeds LS9 6NF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A guide to making representations is available from the Traffic Commissioners Office.



BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

Including family announcements in partnership with the Kent registration service

To register Births, Marriages and Deaths contact the Kent registration service on 0845 824 7400

For advertising announcement enquiries telephone Kent on Sunday 01303 817150

BIRTHS

BERRYMAN
Stephen and Nicola are proud to announce the birth of Max Frankie.
A brother for Zak

COX
Phoebe and Robert celebrate the birth of their daughter Ruby May Cox on 15th February 2012, weighing 7lbs 14oz at 3.44pm.

HAYLOR
David and Clare Haylor would like to announce the birth of their son, Henry Charles Haylor, born Saturday 18th February 2012. A brother for Charlotte Isabel.

MCPHILLIPS
George James Stanley born on 18th Februry 2012 weighing 5lb 13oz.
Son to James McPhillips and Keeley Redmond.

PRENTICE
Ian and Nikki of Maidstone are proud to announce the safe arrival of Michael William Prentice on 8th February 2012 weighing 6lb 7oz. Brother to Hollie-Grace, Jasmin, and Callum. Welcome little man, all our love.

WILLIAMS
Scarlett Ann-Louise born on 4th February 2012 weighing 9lb 6oz. Daughter to Amber Davis and Leo Williams

IN MEMORIUM

In loving memory of Bill Osbourne who passed away 9th March 2011. Missed by all who knew him. Thinking of You your sisters in laws Violet & Irene, and Nieces & Nephews Tracy, Tina & Keith

DEATHS

PENNEY
Christopher Charles Penney 25.12.1936 - 20.02.2012

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Still charming us after all these years, Adam Ant is having a party

SEE PAGE 56

PLUCKY FELLA

Gifted guitarist Newton Faulkner heads to county

SEE PAGE 58

Kent Weekend

Don't mess with Mum

Proud gorilla holds her new baby tight

SEE PAGE 57

PLUS: Awards celebrate the finest food producers in the county - **food and drink p53** Why move when you can improve your home instead? - **property p62** Fiat releases a revamped old favourite - **driving p63**

WE'RE TOP OF THE LEAGUE

Follow the League One leaders this spring as they close in on promotion back to the Championship. There were 26,546 at The Valley for Stevenage last month – make sure you get a slice of the action between now and May!

SPECIAL OFFER - ALL SEATS £10/£5

Hartlepool United: Saturday, May 5th (3pm)

Buy in March for the final game of the season against Hartlepool and pay just **£10** adults, **£5** concessions for any seat. This discount only applies to tickets bought between March 1st and 31st.* If the Addicks go on to win League One, this match could include the official trophy presentation

COMING TO THE VALLEY

Tuesday, March 20th (7.45pm): Yeovil Town
Saturday, March 31st (3pm): Leyton Orient
Easter Monday, April 9th (3pm): Walsall
Saturday, April 21st (3pm): Wycombe Wanderers

Adults £18-£25, over 60s/U21s £13-£18, all U18s £10, all U11s £5

All matches listed are now on sale. Buy online at www.cafctickets.co.uk or on 0871 226 1905** between 9am-5pm weekdays or 10am-4pm non-match Saturdays. Also on sale to personal callers in advance via the Valley Superstore and at the ticket windows on matchdays

CHARLTON ATHLETIC VALLEYEXPRESS

Valley Express return coach travel is also available to all matches from 50 pick-ups right across Kent for £7 return. See www.valleyexpress.co.uk for further information and to book, or call 0871 226 1905**

Season Tickets 2012/13

2012/13 season tickets are now on sale. Buy before Easter to take advantage of our current prices – adults £240-£375; over 60s/U21s £165-£250; all U18s £75, all U11s £49. Adults £215 in the family stand when accompanied by an U18. See www.cafctickets.co.uk for more information

* No refunds for discounted tickets after March 31st ** Calls cost 10p per minute from a BT landline, other networks and mobiles may cost more

THE INTERVIEW

Chris Addison

TV face has all the bases covered... but stand-up is where he's really at

Encouragement from another comic changed everything, learns **Joe Bill**

SELLING insurance has been described as the least desirable job going, but that wouldn't be the case if your desk buddy was Chris Addison. The baby-faced star of TV's Direct Line adverts has to deal with pushy customers like Alexander Armstrong in the commercials, but thankfully it's not his day job.

Best known for his role as Ollie in the BBC political sitcom The Thick Of It, Addison has become a household name after years of stand-up tours and TV bit-parts.

The 40-year-old is now a regular on panel shows Have I Got News For You and Mock The Week, using the stand-up skills that originally got him noticed.

He said: "It all started in Manchester and I started out of boredom, the year after I graduated.

"It is a really bleak year nobody tells you about in advance – it's a dark hideous bit where uni bolts the gates behind you, and you and your mates are scattered to the wind. It's awful.

"When I was at university I used to direct plays, which was what I wanted to do after I left. It was really simple at uni because there are always people with spare time around, and there are rooms you can hire and all that.

"But once you're out of uni it's really hard to put that sort of thing on. So, being lazy, I decided I needed some sort of creative outlet – and actually most people don't really see this, but stand-up is one of the easiest ones to do.

"Logistically, someone else organises everything. The lights, advertising, everything. You just pitch up and say your words. So, during Easter '95, I went along and did a stand-up show at The Swab And Bucket in Manchester and that's where it all began."

Addison's first gig did not go as hoped, but a famous face in the crowd came to his rescue.

"It was terrible, that first show, and felt awful, but Dave Gorman was in the pub," said Addison. "At the time, Manchester was a real hotbed of comedy that had Mrs Merton, Steve Coogan, John Thompson and Lucy Porter all hanging about. Anyway, Dave was at this gig and I didn't know who he was, but he came up and introduced himself and said this was a rubbish audience and that I had some nice material and I should go elsewhere and try it again.

"I owe a lot to him for that single conversation. And I did it again a few months later.

"It all kind of became a regular thing. The circuit was really good, and because there was so much comedy around at the time you were able to work most weeks, but there was a small-enough scene to get on very quickly."

Addison went on to tour the UK and play the Edinburgh Festival on a number of occasions during the 90s, but it wasn't until the first screenings of The Thick Of It almost six years ago that he was thrust into the public eye.

He said: "I had a problem with being called an actor when The Thick Of It started because I had been a stand-up comedian for 10 years by that point. But suddenly I came to people's attention as an actor, and was described as an actor.

"At heart I'm a stand-up, that's my day job, everything else has come from that, but I've been really lucky, things have turned up. I had no intention of acting, but it turns out I love it."

After three hit series of the BBC show and a spin-off film In The Loop, the big question that keeps coming Addison's way is will there be more?

He said: "I don't just think there will be new Thick Of It coming out... I am certain of it. In a month we start rehearsing the next series. I imagine it will be out later this year.

"Thanks to Twitter, I get asked about it three times a day. Every now and again I just announce there will be more coming out, but the questions don't stop."

The comedian uses some political satire in his stand-up show and is a self-confessed political nerd but, as he explained, his knowledge didn't do him many favours on set.

He said: "I like the soap opera of it, at the same time as realising that the soap opera is the problem with politics, too. The Thick Of It is a parallel universe, so you can't start doing gags about real politicians. There is one joke in the show that refers to a real, living, breathing politician and I hate that joke. It is a funny joke, but I think it shouldn't be there.

"You can't ad-lib stuff from the real world. I remember thinking I needed to do some research before it started filming and looked up various terms about housing and citizenship, but they were of absolutely no use.

"One thing worth remembering about the show is that it is dead easy to get distracted by the fact that it is set in the world of politics.

"That doesn't really matter – politics is just the sit in which the com takes place. It's just like any other workplace sitcom. It's about a bunch of people who have been put together, who don't get on and are not competent enough to achieve their goals. That's the same in Fawlty Towers, The Office, everything."

But as much as Addison likes his role as Ollie, as well as the insurance salesman in the Direct Line adverts, stand-up is where his heart lies.

"Mock The Week is my regular gig, isn't it," he said. "I love Have I Got News, and being the host was unbelievably exciting for a boy fan. Ian Hislop and Paul Merton are brilliant and incredibly welcoming, but because I used to watch it as a student it still felt like walking into the staff-room.

"Mock The Week is my gang. Dara Ó Briain and I used to share a venue in Edinburgh, as I did with Andy Parsons. They are my generation."

■ **Chris Addison will be at the Assembly Hall Theatre in Tunbridge Wells on Sunday, March 11. Tickets are available by phoning 01892 530613 or alternatively by visiting www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk.**

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MOTHER'S DAY

Historic celebration for modern mums

MOTHERING Sunday is a special time for all the family, when children pay respect to their mothers.

Common traditions include taking Mum out for a meal or making sure any household chores are done.

Also, many churches give children some spring flowers to present to their mothers as a thank-you for all their care and love throughout the year – they may also say a special prayer.

Nowadays Mum will doubtless enjoy her breakfast in bed, the fact that the hoovering and dusting are being done and the prospect of Sunday lunch cooked by somone else. And – possibly most of all – the knowledge she won't have to do the washing-up.

Mothering Sunday is always the fourth Sunday of Lent – so its date varies from year to year. In bygone years it was also known as Refreshment Sunday, Pudding Pie Sunday or Mid-Lent Sunday. It was traditionally a day when fasting rules were relaxed.

Now, as with most traditional holidays, flowers, cards and gifts are the order of the day, but the celebrations – like so many others – have their roots in the past.

No one is absolutely certain how the name of Mothering Sunday began. However, one theory is that the celebration could have been adopted from a Roman spring festival celebrating Cybele, a mother goddess.

As Christianity spread, this date was adopted by Christians and about 400 years ago people made a point of visiting their nearest big church – known as the 'mother church' of all other churches in an area.

Young British girls and boys 'in service' – working as maids and servants – were only allowed one day to visit their family each year. This was usually on Mothering Sunday.

Often the housekeeper would allow the maids to bake a cake to take home for their mother. Sometimes a gift of eggs or flowers from the garden was also allowed.

Nowadays gifts are on show in stores since the end of the Christmas period, so no one needs to depend on the generosity of a cook or gardener.

But for many it's a cause for celebration that they are taking part in a thank-you to their mum.

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Farming community recognised as awards salute Kent produce

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archcant.co.uk

THE wide range of excellent produce from across the county was celebrated at this year's annual Taste of Kent Awards.

Retailers, brewers, restaurants, cheesemakers, farmers and wine producers were all part of a gathering which showcased the very best culinary delights of the Garden of England.

The awards, which are the brainchild of local food champion Produced in Kent, were hosted by BBC Radio Kent presenter Matthew Davies in Maidstone's Oakwood House.

Julie Monkman, manager of Produced in Kent, said: "We have been celebrating the county's food, drink and farming heroes.

"It's been wonderful to recognise not only the outstanding food- and drink-producers, the food retailers, farmers' markets and best dining experiences in Kent but for the first time to reward the farming community too.

"We applaud the incredible role they play as proactive custodians of the Garden of England and it is little wonder the two key reasons people visit Kent is for our outstanding food and views.

"Many of the winners here really are creating 'edible views' in our county and Produced in Kent congratulates them all."

Phil Miles, of Godmersham Game, based in Canterbury, was awarded the title of Kent Meat Retailer of the Year.

He said: "I am delighted and surprised to win the award for the second consecutive year, which is very unusual for a Taste of Kent Award.

"We have been short-listed for the Kent Meat Retailer for the Year for five years now and it is wonderful to be able to retain the trophy."

Gadds' No3 Pale Ale, produced by the Ramsgate Brewery, won Best Kentish Beer.

Lois Gadd said: "We started our brewery 10 years ago and our first brew was Gadds' No3 pale ale made with local hops.

Winning this award, the third time for No3, has shown us that the beer is appreciated by the people of Kent.

"We first won an award in 2007, and since then we have seen the Taste of Kent Awards grow year on year and competition increasing."

Appley Ever After, made by Big Tree Cider in Dartford, won Best Kent Cider Or Perry, while Cox Bramley Apple Juice, of Core Fruit Products, Canterbury, was nominated Best Kentish Fruit Juice.

GARDEN'S FINEST: Produced in Kent's annual Taste of Kent Awards showcased the very best local food and drink the county has to offer, with winners coming from all over Kent

Mama Feelgoods, of Canterbury, was awarded Kent Local Food Retailer Of The Year.

Owner Maddie Allen said: "We try to showcase the best of Kentish food products and it was great to see so many of our suppliers win awards, too. This award will bring us new customers."

Kent Artisan Food Producer Of The Year was Quex Foods of Birchington.

Anthony Curwen said: "The love of our heritage, environment and farms comes from the whole team and is exhibited in our products."

Shipbourne farmers' market was named Kent Farmers' Market Of The Year; Sankey's Fishmongers, Tunbridge Wells, was Kent Seafood Retailer Of The Year; and Ortega 2010 from Biddenden Vineyards was voted Best Kent Wine.

The Marquis of Alkham was crowned Kent Restaurant Of The Year.

General manager Ben Walton said: "We hope this award will raise awareness of our restaurant and, in turn, the local suppliers we use to create the dining experience our customers enjoy."

Pearson's Arms in Whitstable picked up its first Kent Dining Pub Of The Year award since being taken over by celebrity chef Richard Phillips.

Dairy goat farmers Debbie Vernon and David Shannon, of Ellie's Dairy, Wychling, Faversham, received the AONB Kent Food, Farming And Landscape Award (Small Farm Category), while the Kentish Bluebell cheese, produced at Kingscott Cheese, Staplehurst, was named Kent Food Product Of The Year – Retail

Canterbury Cobble from Cheesemakers of Canterbury, Dargate, won Kent Food Product Of The Year – Foodservice. "It's great to have a sense of satisfaction and to know that there is such appreciation of our products," said proprietor Jane Bowyer.

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Savour the moment with your closest

ENJOYING a meal with your family is one of the great delights of dining. Whether it is a regular occasion when you all meet up to enjoy one another's company and some fine food and drink, or something that is enjoyed more infrequently, any such meal is one to be treasured.

It may be that you are looking to treat your mum and dad, or a favourite aunt and uncle, or even the whole extended family, to a top-class lunch or dinner and are looking for somewhere you can be assured of top-quality food and service.

This week we feature restaurants that have a special welcome for family groups, including, of course, children. Some have menus specially prepared for younger members of the party, while all offer the warm welcome that means so much to family groups out to enjoy themselves.

Restaurants across Kent pride themselves on offering the very best of local produce, so what could be better than sitting alongside your nearest and dearest sampling the fine food and drink produced in the beautiful countryside you are either looking out upon or that is just outside the door?

The summer months are particularly good for enjoying alfresco dining, which is something children particularly enjoy. So here is a selection of top Kent dining establishments that will go out of their way to welcome and provide for family groups.

Why not take a trip to somewhere different and bring along your favourite relatives to ensure a wonderful time, excellent company and top quality food?

The Red Lion
Hernhill

Why here...
Located in the picturesque village of Hernehill, there is a warm, cosy atmosphere, with quality home-cooked food. Choose a drink from a varied selection of wines, beers and real ales.

On the menu...
Take the family for a popular Sunday lunch where you can have one course for £10.50, two courses for £13.50 and three for £15.50. Choose from pork, lamb or beef, served with all the trimmings.

How to book...
The Red Lion, Crockham Lane, Hernhill ME13 9JR
phone: 01227 751207
web: www.theredlion.org

Waggon at Hale
Chatham

Why here...
Well-run family pub with good food, drinks and a friendly, relaxed atmosphere. All ages are welcome; in fact in the garden there is a mini family farm with chickens, rabbits and a minature pig.

On the menu...
The home-cooked food menu covers all tastes, with simple light bites to the ever-popular traditional Sunday roast, the Thai fishcakes or the Waggon burger... handmade with Angus Scotch beef.

How to book...
179 Capstone Road, Chatham ME5 7PP
phone: 01634 400800
web: www.waggonathale.co.uk

Captain Digby
Broadstairs

Why here...
Award-winning family restaurant and one of Thanet's most popular places to dine all year round. Positioned on the cliff-top overlooking Kingsgate Bay, the Digby has some of the most romantic views the isle has to offer. Perfect for the family, the Digby is a great venue to celebrate events such as Mother's Day and Easter. There are indoor and outdoor play areas, face-painters at weekends and activities in the school breaks.

On the menu...
A varied choice, including Captain's Combo to start, moving on to choices such as penne marinara, steak-and-ale pie, Cajun chicken breast and the famous fresh cod and chips. Meal deal for children includes a dish from the pirate's menu, a drink and ice-cream for £5.50.

How to book...
Captain Digby, Kingsgate CT10 3QH
phone: 01843 867764
web: www.captaindigby.co.uk

Mint Leaf Lounge
Teynham

Why here...
The newly-opened classic Indian restaurant has a fresh, aromatic and modern atmosphere and serves freshly-cooked Indian cuisine using traditional cooking methods.

On the menu...
A wide range of dishes is served, with something to suit everyone's taste buds. Open Monday to Saturday midday-2.30pm and 5.30pm-11.30pm. Sunday buffet from midday-5pm. Kids under five eat free.

How to book...
London Road, Teynham, Sittingbourne ME9 9PS
phone: 01795 521330
web: www.mintleafindian.com

London Beach
Tenterden

Why here...
The London Beach offers one of the best à la carte menus in the county.
With the menus changing on a regular basis, the London Beach team uses local producers where possible.
The sophisticated restaurant has a relaxed ambience, with beautiful panoramic views across the Weald of Kent.
It is the ideal venue for fun family gatherings either large or small.

On the menu...
Start your meal with Rye Bay scallops, creamed leeks and truffle dressing followed by roasted breast of pheasant, confit leg, cauliflower purée and terrine of Dauphinoise. Top your meal off with Champagne panacotta with vanilla poached rhubarb. You will find something to suit all the family.

How to book...
London Beach Country Hotel, Ashford Road, Tenterden TN30 6HX3
phone: 01580 766279; email: enquiries@londonbeach.com

World's Wonder
Ashford

Why here...
World's Wonder sits in the countryside, offering a true rural eating experience. All food is cooked on the premises and sourced locally, with free-range meat and poultry supplied by a local farmer.

On the menu...
Everything is home-made, including the famous pies, traditional steak-and-kidney pie and rabbit-and-bacon pie. Home-made desserts are available. An ideal restaurant for the whole family.

How to book...
Kenardington Road, WarehorneTN26 2LU
phone: 01233 732431
web: www.worldswonder.co.uk

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT **Six of the Best** CONTACT 01303 817150 OR EMAIL **features@kosmedia.co.uk**

EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS

To be included on this page, please email **features@kosmedia.co.uk**

Trading ice for Grease
Robin Cousins stars

Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells
Monday to Saturday, March 19-24
01892 530613
www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk

SKATING legend and Dancing On Ice judge Robin Cousins has joined the cast of Grease ahead of its Tunbridge Wells showing.
The Olympic gold-medal-winner will guest-star as Teen Angel in the stage production. To younger audiences, Cousins will be better known as the technical judge on the ITV reality ice-skating show, but others will remember him for 30 years of professional skating that took him to European championships and Olympic gold throughout the 80s and 90s.
Danny Bayne stars as Danny, with Carina Gillespie as sweetheart Sandy, following in the footsteps of John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John, who played the roles in the 1978 movie.

Soprano sings
Intimate gig to mark album

Club Dover, Whitfield
Friday, March 23
01304 829216
www.rebecca-robinson.co.uk

KENT soprano Rebecca Robinson celebrates her fourth album with a live show in Whitfield, near Dover.
The classical singer is marking the launch of On Angels' Wings with an intimate gig at Club Dover.
The album is a collection of modern classical songs that have inspired the artist over the past two years, which also saw her touring with top tenor Tim Pitman as well as making guest appearances at the Birmingham Military Tattoo.
Robinson will be performing material from the new album, which will also be on sale on the night.
She said: "I'm delighted to be returning to Dover for the launch of my new album later this month."

Still standing, still delivering
Adam Ant

The Orchard Theatre, Dartford
Sunday, July 15
01322 220000
www.orchardtheatre.co.uk

THE king of the wild frontier returns to Kent as Adam Ant brings his show to The Orchard Theatre.
The 80s new wave-style icon will swashbuckle his way to the county in July, and tickets are expected to sell fast.
Along with The Good, The Mad And The Lovely Posse, Adam (Stuart Goddard) will play his numerous hits as well as new material at the much-anticipated show.
Any 80s party would not be complete without smashing tunes like Stand And Deliver, Ant Music, Kings Of The Wild Frontier, Friend Or Foe and Prince Charming, meaning that Adam Ant truly made his mark on the world.
Tickets are priced between £29.50 and £30.50.

Family tribute
Fresh insight into Dickens

Historic Dockyard Chatham
Wednesday, May 16
01634 823815
www.thedockyard.co.uk

THE great-great-grandson of Charles Dickens has announced that the premiere of a new show featuring the novelist's greatest works is to be played in Chatham.
Gerald Dickens will celebrate the author's 200th birthday with The Complete Works of Charles Dickens.
The premiere will be at the picturesque Royal Dockyard Church and feature extracts from all the main novels.
A question-and-answer session will be hosted by Gerald at the end of the show.
Following the performance there will be afternoon tea in the Commissioner's House as well as the Dickens Dockyard Tour, which, with a costumed guide, provides an insight into why this literary giant loved the area so much.
For ticket prices, you can visit www.thedockyard.co.uk.

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KENT ATTRACTIONS

Have a slice of festival action

Apple Tarts

Brogdale Farm, Faversham
Sunday and Monday, June 3-4
www.appletartsfestival.co.uk
Tickets £38.50

A FAVERSHAM festival that was a storming success last year has been announced again for 2012.
The organisers of the Apple Tarts festival have put tickets on sale through their new website for the spring bank-holiday weekend in June.
The boutique festival features bands, entertainment, DJs, live art, food, a headphone disco and a midnight bonfire until 2am and overnight camping.
Already announced to appear at the Brogdale Farm event are Swampmeat, Some DJ, Cold Rice DJs, The Originals Kid and Late Night Gimp Fight stand-up comedy.
More announcements regarding line-up are to come. Follow them @tweetingtarts.

Keane's long-awaited return to rocky road

Band's gig by the sea

Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone
Monday, June 4
0844 8471776
www.atgtickets.com

TOP pop-rockers Keane have announced their first UK tour in three years, with the group heading to Folkestone's Leas Cliff Hall as part of the much-anticipated series of gigs.
The band, who shot to fame with their first Brit Award-winning album Hopes And Fears, have recently finished recording their latest work and are looking to showcase it to their loyal fans on the new tour.
Four years have elapsed since the group's last album, Perfect Symmetry, meaning their army of devoted fans has been kept waiting for far too long.
And with the top-selling Under The Iron Sea album also to their name, it was really was time for Keane to resurface.
Tickets for the summer gig are on sale now; book early at www.atgtickets.com/venue/Leas-Cliff-Hall.

New kid on the block

Bouncing baby gorilla

Port Lympne Wild Animal Park
0844 8424647
www.aspinallfoundation.org

THE newest member of the western lowland gorilla troop at Port Lympne Wild Animal Park has started to venture out.
The two-week-old youngster was born to mum Mumba and dad Djala on Sunday, February 26, but remains unnamed as it is too early for keepers to determine the sex.
The gorilla birth is the second in 10 months at the park near Hythe and takes the number of successful births at the Aspinall Foundation centres in Kent to a staggering 132. The park is open from 10am-5pm.

A Dickensian treat awaits

Circus of Light

Britannia Theatre, Chatham
Monday, April 2-Friday, April 13
01634 890421
www.dickensworld.co.uk

TO celebrate Charles Dickens's love of circus and all things magical, Dickens World in Chatham has announced the return of the popular Circus of Light.
Visitors to Dickens World can enjoy this fabulous Victorian circus based on Dickens's novel Hard Times and will join some of the writer's favourite characters.
Meet one of England's most celebrated clowns, The Great Grimaldi, in this family-friendly circus show at the Britannia Theatre this Easter.
See stunning fire-juggling and mind-blowing magic, as well as breathtaking flying acts to keep young and old alike entertained through the school holidays.
Tickets are priced at £13 for adults and £8 for children.

A Charles Dickens Bicentenary Presentation

Dickens World, our exciting indoor visitor complex based around the life, books and times of Charles Dickens. We take you on a fascinating journey to Dickens' World as you step back into authentically themed Dickensian England.

Annual Passes now available from just £10

BRITANNIA THEATRE EVENTS

Friday 16th March 2012 @ 7:30pm
• Adapted from the novel by Charles Dickens
• Directed by Adam Morley • Consultant Gerald Dickens
Tickets: Adult £15, Concession £13, Child £10
Britannia Theatre, Dickens World, Chatham, ME4 4LL
Box Office: 01634 890421 • www.dickensworld.co.uk

Time for Tea
A new 'Good Old Days' live show
Afternoon cream tea, scones, lashings of laughs and songs of yesteryear to sing along to.
Show only is included in the Dickens World standard admission price.
*£5 extra for cream tea, scones & cucumber sandwiches
Next Show Wednesday 21st March 2012
For more information visit www.dickensworld.co.uk or call 01634 890421

JONGLEURS COMEDY NIGHTS
Friday 2nd March 2012
Friday 30th March 2012
Friday 27th April 2012
Tickets from £10.80
Visit Dickens World or call 01634 890421

Tom O'Connor & The Vintage Corporation
A night of Top Class Comedy and Music from the 60s & 70s
Saturday 2nd June 2012 - Britannia Theatre
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ODEON at Dickens World

A Monster in Paris 2D (U)
Bel Ami (15)
John Carter 2D (12A)
John Carter 3D (12A)
Safe House (15)
Star Wars Episode 1 - The Phantom Menace (U) 3D
The Artist (PG)
The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel (12A)
This Means War (12A)
The Muppets (U)
The Raven (15)
The Women in Black (12A)
Digitial
Wanderlust (15)
Austism Screening of John Carter (12A)

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SENIOR SCREEN
New Years Eve (12A)

NEWBIES
John Carter 2D (12A)

OTHER CINEMA
The Artist (PG)

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STAGE & ARTS

To be included on this page, please email **features@kosmedia.co.uk**

Legends join for a classic

Medic mayhem

Churchill Theatre, Bromley
Tues to Sat, March 20-24
0844 8717620
www.atgtickets.com/bromley

THE Churchill Theatre in Bromley will be hosting its third stage premiere of the year this month with the unveiling of classic comedy Doctor In The House.
The show stars top TV comedian and king of the I'm A Celebrity jungle Joe Pasquale as well as a legend in the world of UK theatre, Robert Powell, best known for playing Jesus of Nazareth in a TV mini-series.
You can follow the young medical student Simon Sparrow as he begins his five-year internship at St Swithin's Teaching Hospital. Continually running foul of the irascible head surgeon Sir Lancelot Spratt, Sparrow's social life is spiced up when he is taken under the wings of two student repeaters in the form of Tony Grimsdyke and John Evans.

Folk royalty in a fresh guise

The Albion Band

Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells
Thursday, March 15
01892 530 613

A NEW generation of English folk talent has arrived and at the forefront is the new version of the everlasting Albion Band.
The group have brought together up-and-coming musicians and singers including Ashley Dunlop's son Blair, Gavin Davenport, Katriona Gilmore, Tom Wright, Tim Yates and Benjamin Trott.
The new line-up recaptures the spirit of The Albion Band's heyday with a rockier approach to traditional English folk.
Alongside Steeleye Span and Fairport Convention, The Albion Band are unquestionably one of the Big Three of English folk-rock, fusing traditional British songs and tunes with contemporary instruments and sounds.

Curiosity and the keys

The Secret Garden

Theatre Royal Margate
Monday, March 19, at 7.30pm
0845 1301786/01227 787787
www.theatreroyalmargate.com

TO coincide with the centenary of Frances Hodgson Burnett's classic novel The Secret Garden, production team Angel Exit unearths the dark heart of the tale on stage.
The story revolves around Mary Lennox, who was plucked from the vibrancy of India and transplanted to a big old house full of secrets on the grey Yorkshire moors.
As Mary battles loneliness, she encounters locked doors, a curious robin, hidden keys and strange cries ringing down the corridor.
Storytelling is blended with beautiful puppets, singing and an original soundtrack.
Tickets are priced at £6 for children, £12-£14 for adults and £35 for a family ticket.

New material from Newton

Gifted guitarist

Quarterhouse, Folkestone
Sunday, April 29
01303 858500
www.quarterhouse.co.uk.

BRIT Award-nominated acoustic-guitar virtuoso Newton Faulkner has announced a Kent date ahead of the release of his much-anticipated new album.
As well as playing all his classic hits, Faulkner will be giving fans the chance to hear new material on the tour as he showcases songs from his forthcoming LP.
The dreadlocked singer has already sold more than a million albums in the UK alone. His debut LP, Hand Built By Robots, spent more than 10 months inside the top-40 album charts and became one of the top 20 biggest-selling UK digital albums of all time.
Tickets are available by calling 01303 858500 or online at www.quarterhouse.co.uk.

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Mamma Mia Party

For over 40s only

Pontin's Pakefield Holiday Village, Suffolk Coast

Self drive, 3 nights half board PLUS 99p Bar

Quote MP5-KOS

£99pp

25 to 28 May, 2012

Join us for a party where the name of the game is fun. We're reviving the 70s & 80s when Abba reigned supreme and their songs were on everyone's lips. We have organised a fabulous private party weekend featuring Mamma Mia the Movie and a top Abba Tribute Band playing live.

Pontin's Pakefield Holiday Village is situated on the Suffolk coast near Lowestoft. Enjoy a choice of bars and eateries, an indoor swimming pool, snooker, pool, darts, short mat bowls, 9 hole pitch & putt, tennis court and more. The recently refurbished chalets are all single storey and situated on level ground, in landscaped grounds just a short stroll from the main facilities and car parks. All chalets have TV, tea/coffee making facilities, heating, double glazing, en suite bath/shower & toilet, bed linen & towels. Included meals are taken in the buffet-style cafeteria with views over the grounds to the sea.

INCLUDED:

- Mamma Mia the Movie
- Top Abba Tribute band
- 99p Bar from 6pm to 9pm every night
- Full Entertainment & Activities programme
- 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts
- 3 nights en-suite chalet accommodation with TV & tea/coffee-making facilities

Bercelona Calella & Catalonia

Escorted Rail Holiday from London, Ebbsfleet & Ashford

8 days half board

Quote BC9-KOS

£789pp

17 September, 2012

Barcelona is renowned for its relaxed atmosphere, style, art and architecture. We stay in the seaside town of Calella, distinguished by its well-kept beaches and carefree feel, less than 1 hour's drive from Barcelona. The holiday begins with a champagne check-in at London St Pancras, before an afternoon Eurostar departure to Paris. After an overnight stay in the French Capital we continue by train to Perpignan, then coach to Calella.

INCLUDED:

- Escorted throughout
- Champagne check-in at London St Pancras
- Return rail travel from St Pancras (Ebbsfleet & Ashford departures on request)
- Overnight hotel B&B in Paris outbound
- 6 nights half-board at a 4-star hotel in Calella including wine and water with dinner
- Entertainment some evenings of your stay
- Guided visit to Barcelona
- Opportunity to visit Montserrat, Cremallera and Andorra
- All transfers abroad

Pontin's Pakefield Midweek Savers

Self-Drive Breaks

4 nights half board

Quote PM-KOS

Only £89pp

16, 30 Apr; 7, 14, 11, 18 June, 2012

Pontin's Pakefield Holiday Village is situated on the Suffolk coast near Lowestoft. Enjoy entertainment every night and day with Pontin's famous Bluecoats and visiting cabaret acts - PLUS a choice of bars and eateries, an indoor swimming pool, snooker, pool, darts, short mat bowls, 9 hole pitch & putt, tennis court and more. The recently refurbished chalets are all single storey and situated on level ground, in landscaped grounds just a short stroll from the main facilities and car parks. All chalets have TV, tea/coffee making facilities, heating, double glazing, en suite bath/shower & toilet, bed linen & towels. Included meals are taken in the buffet-style cafeteria with views over the grounds to the sea.

INCLUDED:

- 4 nights en-suite chalet accommodation
- 4 dinners & 4 breakfasts
- Entertainment every evening

Britannia Hotels self-drive deals

Self drive, 3 or 4 nights, half board PLUS 99p Bar

Quote BRIT-KOS

From £99pp

Hotel	Start date	Nights	Ent	Price pp
Grand Burstin, Folkestone	30 Apr; 7 May	4	yes	£149
	13, 27 Apr; 18, 25 May	3	yes	£119
Grand Hotel, Scarborough	23, 30 April	4	yes	£149
	27 Apr; 11 May	3	yes	£119
Roundhouse, Bournemouth	21 May	4	no	£149
	25 May	3	no	£119
Grand Hotel, Llandudno	18 May	3	yes	£119
Prince of Wales, Southport	27 Apr; 4 May	3	no	£119

INCLUDED:

- 3 or 4 nights stay with dinner & breakfast each day
- 99p Bar from 6pm to 9pm nightly for house beers, wines, spirits & pumped mixers
- Nightly entertainment (not at Bournemouth or Southport)

Riviera of Flowers Monaco & Portofino

Escorted Rail Holiday from London, Ebbsfleet & Ashford

9 days semi-all-inclusive

Quote DP-KOS

From £899pp

16 Apr, 16 May, 17 & 24 Sept, 2012

This super holiday taking in the French & Italian Rivieras, starts with a glass of Bubbly at St Pancras (or join at Ebbsfleet/Ashford) before boarding the Eurostar to Lille or Paris. After an overnight stay, we continue by TGV train to Nice and Diano Marina. On the Riviera enjoy Free Drinks every night and visits to Monaco & Eze, Portofino & Dolceacqua.

INCLUDED:

- Escorted throughout
- Champagne Check-in at St Pancras
- Return rail travel from St Pancras (from Ebbsfleet & Ashford on request) - afternoon departure
- 1 night hotel B&B in Paris or Lille outbound
- 6 or 7 nights in Diano Marina, Italy - half board plus Free bar 6pm to 11pm every night
- Included excursions
- All transfers abroad

*50pp initial deposit offer applies to new bookings made by 17 March 2012, followed by balance of deposit - £100, by 30 April 2012, or full payment/balance if 8 weeks or less to travel.

HOMES

Adapt just one wall to add all the extra space you could ever need...

WITH the property market being the way it is, many people are looking to make more out of their current home.

Elephant Windows, with 40 years' experience, is perfectly placed to help people get the most out of their house.

The company is part of the prestigious Piper Group, a major contractor and manufacturer of high-quality home improvements for many local authorities.

Many Elephant customers have realised they don't have to go to specialist design companies and pay extortionate prices for their orangery.

"Here at Elephant we can design, manufacture and build bespoke conservatories and orangeries that exactly meet our customers' demands," said a spokesman for Elephant's in-house CAD design team.

Elephant has been offering a full service to their customers throughout Kent for their conservatories for 40 years, a service that is now offered to all orangery customers, from initial consultation, survey, CAD drawings, planning and manufacture to installation, all free of charge.

The business can even deal with obtaining planning permission through the Elephant Windows planning consultant, giving a holistic service from start to finish, with satisfaction guaranteed, so making it easy to get that extra room customers have always wanted.

The contemporary orangeries from Elephant are entirely bespoke and an ideal way to introduce more space without having to sacrifice any of the garden.

Choosing a wall of Elephant's bi-folding aluminium doors means the space has a dual function: close them and customers gain an indoor dining room, playroom or kitchen; leave them open and the garden becomes an extension of the home's living space.

They are also ideal for entertaining, especially in the summer, when doors can be left open, making for a seamless transition between home and garden, enabling a party or other social event to spill out of the house into the sunshine, maximising space while at the same time providing elegance to an existing home.

Conservatories are another great way to give the home that all-important light and airy feeling.

A place to relax with large windows, they allow a view out to the garden, increasing the feeling of space in the home and making a connection between the interior and exterior space.

With the addition of plants and carefully-arranged furniture, they can add markedly to the style and individuality of any home as well as considerably increasing its value.

Addition of a drinks cabinet is always welcome, especially when the room is used for entertaining guests, and a dining table can be used to give something of an alfresco feel to meals taken in the room rather than in a more formal home setting.

All Elephant staff are experts at understanding and delivering what you want to make your house the home of your dreams. For more information or a free quotation about the design excellence, you can phone Elephant on 0800 195 0000 or visit www.elephantwindows.co.uk.

Orangery

HOMES

To read this and other property stories visit our property blog @ homes24.co.uk ...or smartphone users can scan this QR code

A solicitor can help your chain to take the strain

HOME sales are falling through because delicate sale chains are breaking following delays in the process, Boys & Maughan solicitors have warned.

The Thanet practice, one of the Law Society's Conveyancing Quality Scheme members, said the complex home-buying process, coupled with a slow property market, was hindering chains and preventing sales going through.

Peter Rodd, head of conveyancing, said: "For every sale in the chain to go ahead, each one must run as smoothly as possible. That's the theory, but in practice it does not always happen.

"Delays in exchanging contracts, or even someone in the chain pulling out at the last minute, can put the chain at risk.

"To help avoid chains snapping and delays in general, it is important to get your solicitor involved as early as possible. Most people wait until late in the process to consult a solicitor, but by including them early they can come up with an agreed time-frame in which to sort out any potential problems.

"The mortgage lenders have confidence in the Law Society's CQS, so using a CQS solicitor can be reassurance for your mortgage provider and others in the chain."

The warning comes after figures in January showed that house sales fell last year, with only 890,000 completions – one of the lowest figures since records began in 1978.

Don't move... improve. But be sure to think things through

By Gary Wright

EXTENSIONS and internal conversions form a huge part of the changes people are making to their home as fewer chose to move.

There are two key things to think about when considering home-improvement projects: firstly, what do you want from your home, and, secondly, what will buyers want from your home when the time comes to sell it?

What you want from your home should hopefully be more obvious: do you need more space, or do you just need to use your existing space more wisely? Perhaps simply redecorating or updating your bathroom or kitchen would give your home a new lease of life.

When it comes to saleability you need to be quite savvy. Make sure the work you are doing doesn't put your home above the value of the road. If you have a three-bedroom house, it might not be cost-effective to turn it into a five-bedroom, three-reception-room home as you probably won't get a return on your money.

Choosing a builder can be yet another minefield, but the Federation of Master Builders can help.

"We always recommend consumers carry out their own checks before hiring a builder to undertake any work," said Brian Berry, director of external affairs at the FMB.

Choosing the right builder is crucial, not just because you may be spending a small fortune or you will have to live with the works once they are complete, but also because you may have to live with the works and the builder while the project is completed.

"It is also worth considering protecting your home-improvement investment with a warranty from Build Assure," said Berry.

You can find out more about Build Assure at http://www.fmb.org.uk/build-assure/.

Here are some starter tips for finding a builder from the FMB:

1. Be specific and prepare a detailed brief. Be as clear as you can about what you want, as this can make a huge difference to quotes.

2. Choose a reputable builder. Ask friends and family, check the find-a-builder website (www.fmb.org.uk/findabuilder). Don't be afraid to ask for references or to speak to previous clients.

3. Get at least three quotes. When you are ready to decide, don't just go with the cheapest – consider communication and quality, too.

4. Use a contract. You can download free contracts on the FMB website (http://www.fmb.org.uk/find-a-builder/free-contracts/).

5. Never pay the full cost of the project up front. Agree a payment plan. Using a credit card to pay can offer you more protection.

To find out more about selecting a builder, as well as tips, hints and practical advice, including 'The essential guide to home improvement', go to www.fmb.org.uk/findabuilder.

The FMB will be at The Great British Home Show 2012 offering information and one-to-one advice clinics with builders to help get you on your way to revealing the potential of your home. More at www.gbhomeshow.co.uk.

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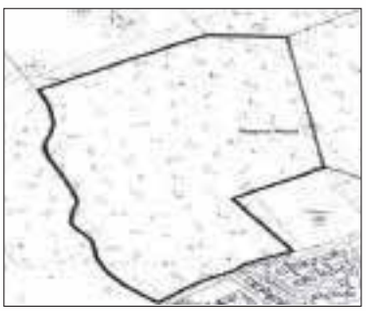
Before

After

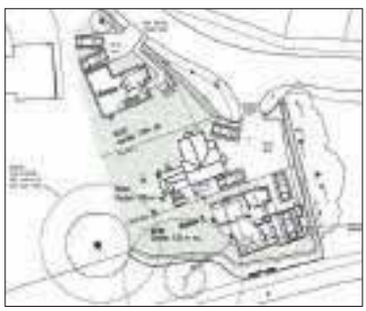
Crowborough
Offers Invited
5 acres of woodland with road frontage suitable for either recreational purposes or for tree management



Uckfield
Offers Invited
Approximately 23 acres of woodland/amenity land available as a whole or separate lots (2% acquisition fee required)

Brenchley
Offers Invited
Single building plot for a detached house of approx. 3,500 sq ft set in 1 acre with stunning views over open countryside

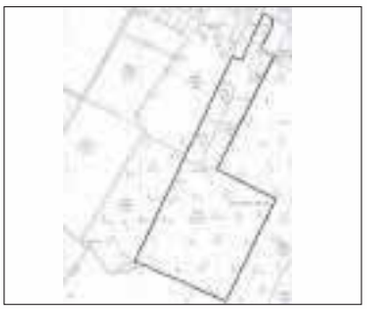
Gillingham
Guide Price £250,000
Site with planning pending for the erection of 5 townhouses arranged as a pair of semi-detached and a terrace of three.



Crawley
Guide Price £425,000
Site with planning for the refurbishment of the existing 3 bedroom property and the construction of two detached houses

Orpington
Guide Price £350,000
Former pub available for sale either unconditionally or subject to planning for conversion or redevelopment of the whole site

Crystal Palace
Guide Price £350,000
Single plot with planning permission for a contemporary 6 bedroom detached house of approx. 3,230 sq ft



Shadoxhurst
Guide Price 600,000
Existing property with potential to extend in grounds of 7 acres with two substantial barns and outbuildings

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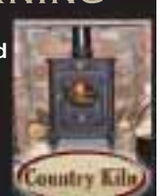

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SERENE affable, attractive, slim, black female, 37, enjoys reading, nature, theatre, music, sport, seeks genuine, caring gent, 34-47 for conversation, companionship, laughter and life. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369411**

LYNDA very attractive attached female, own transport and willing to travel, seeking similar natured male for extra circular activities. Must be discreet. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386653**

KERRY blonde blue eyed cultured lady, very genuine, caring, seeking caring natured male 45-58 for loving romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386649**

HI I'm Jane a 40yr old divorcee with 3 children, looking to fall in love again, seeks genuine, confident, very tactile male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386643**

TINA new to this and a bit nervous, lonely blue eyed 30yr old looking for male companion 30-50yrs. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386625**

SARA 31 tall sexy and single, lovely green eyes, outgoing and social WLTM tall down to earth stable male for poss ltr. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386623**

CHRISTIAN lady, seeks Christian man, 58 plus for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386565**

JUNE good looking divorced 40's female, bubbly romantic and looking for tlc. Genuine replies only pls. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386301**

SUE young looking vivacious female with great sense of humour, OHAC, independent, interesting and sensual, seeking single tactile male. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386275**

DEBS 38 green eyed sophisticated blonde, attractive size 12, not looking for anything long term or steady just fun with intelligent male, 30-60yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386273**

51YR old lady, seeking fun loving, genuine man for socialising and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389840**

ANNE romantic lady, 60's, looking for that special someone for LTR, late 50's or 60's with own car. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386225**

BERYL 57, likes fishing, home life, seeks gent, 60-65. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382503**

SUSIE tactile 33yr old female who loves fast cars and motorbikes, seeks genuine male prepared to live life in the fast lane, 35-50yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382163**

LISA blonde hair, blue eyes, medium build, seeks fun loving, adventurous male, 45-52 for friendship, fun and who knows what else. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389020**

ATTRACTIVE lady 45, medium build, fair hair, 5ft 2ins, seeks kind gent for companionship and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383987**

TRACY 39, fun blue eyed busty blonde, a little dizzy at times but a big bundle of fun, WLTM professional male for good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384045**

JO 21yr old single mum who loves nights out, seeks understanding male for adult fun and more. ACA. Can accommodate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384043**

48YR old female, seeks tall, caring male in the West Sussex area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388974**

WENDY cuddly 52yr old romantic, GSOH, N/S, likes reading, cinema, meals out, seeks male, 45-55 with GSOH to be my Knight in shining armour. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389614**

DEBBIE 5ft 8ins, short dark hair/eyes, slim, daughter, easygoing, likes dinner, cinema, bowling, gym, music, travel, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386337**

60YR old attractive female, seeks non drinker for dog walking, theatre, galleries, photography and companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386231**

CARIBBEAN young lady, 30, caring, genuine, seeks young Christian gent, 30-40 who is dedicated to God for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386117**

LADY 70's, easygoing, likes most things, medium build, seeks gent for friendship, car owner. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386331**

SENSUAL 32yr old professional with no time to have a relationship, seeks similar understanding male for compatible discreet relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386309**

BECKY 34 single mum of one, GSOH, employed with OHAC, fun to be with and very loving, WLTM Mr Right if he is out there? ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386305**

JENNY very feminine attractive mature classy female with beautiful blue eyes, looking for male to enjoy plenty of laughs and get to know. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386303**

KEELY blonde 18yr old, blue eyes size 10, busty, stays at home too much and looking for casual fun with older male with OHAC. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385377**

FEMALE 48, kind, caring, bubbly, GSOH, likes meals out, pubs, cinema, cooking, seeks male, 40-50 with similar interests for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383787**

MARION 38 slim, sporty, fun with good personality, loves travel, holding hands and caring for people. Seeks genuine male, no time wasters. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383159**

PETITE French lady, likes to be spoiled/pampered, seeks gent, 40-55 for discreet liaisons. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379579**

VAL compassionate outgoing female with a big heart and no preconceptions just looking for love with similar minded male. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383155**

TARA charismatic, optimistic Irish entrepreneur, sensual, attractive, intelligent, seeks genuine male to spoil, enjoy good times and let just take it from there. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383121**

BECKY single 29yr old slim female, attractive, blonde, seeking good times with fun male who does not take life too seriously. Status/age unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383057**

CHRIS outgoing secretary enjoys nice wine, romantic meals, looking for easygoing male to get to know and just see what develops. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383055**

KIRSTY 44yr going on 24yrs, sensual, attractive and in need of spoiling, and attention, seeks likeminded male for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383051**

DEBBIE slim blonde special female who loves all the good things life has to offer, seeks no strings fun with professional male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383893**

KIM 37, employed, OHAC, long legs, attractive, sensual, seeks genuine male for romance, fun meets and more. call me for a chat. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383891**

ATTRACTIVE honey blonde, 56, green eyes, curvy, well educated, works full time, solvent, seeks professional guy to share finer things in life and put sparkle back. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382365**

TIA 38yr old attractive blonde female, likes keep fit, home life, looking for similar genuine romantic for sensual relationship and good friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382081**

WENDY enjoys most things in life and is up for anything, whatever you fancy? I'm willing to give it a go! Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382079**

SARAH 40's black hair, blue eyes, curvy, outgoing, N/S, likes meals out, cosy nights in, seeking tall, good looking male who loves a laugh. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388626**

GWEN lovely dark haired, dark blue eyed slim sensual female with GSOH, WLTM male 35-50 for fun dates and romantic nights in together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380443**

CARMEL blonde brown eyed girl, employed with OHAC, likes meals out, walking, looking for loving relationship with caring down to earth male. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380001**

HANNAH 34 slim petite green eyed single mum with many interest, seeking discreet older male for mutual companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379977**

SAM 35, green eyed voluptuous, busty, loves football, theatre, travel, red wine, WLTM older male up to 65yrs for sensual relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379975**

TARA 5ft big blue eyed babe with a cute smile looking for older sugar daddy who is not afraid to spend a little to live a lot! Good times always guaranteed. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381731**

NIAMH slim attractive female, well travelled and body confident, seeking mature male who can handle a real women. Or at least thinks he can. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384051**

EMMA pretty 30yr old Scottish lassie, new to the area and looking for some nice company, give me a call and we can take it from there. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385373**

GEM 24, slim blonde with blue eyes, single mum of one, broadminded and extremely easygoing, WLTM genuine male for LTR. Dads welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385369**

DIANE single fit female, no children, OHAC, lots of free time, looking for a nice man to get to know and hopefully fall in love with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385351**

RUTH slim funny 18yr old brunette who loves cuddles seeks genuine guy for friendship leading to more. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385349**

SEXY black beauty Lucy, 33, WLTM clean solvent male for daytime fun together and mutual spoiling. Cannot accommodate, 40-69yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385347**

KEIRA 34yr old very attractive naughty female, fed up of staying in alone, looking for likeminded naughty boy for fun times. Can be discreet. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384055**

FRAN early 60's, long dark hair, green eyes, seeks guy 52-65 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385769**

SHARON 37yr old attractive feminine size 10, employed, OHAC, single mum of one, seeking similar lonely male with mature outlook. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385655**

DEBS slim attractive stylish naughty 40 looking for male who is prepared to give me lots of attention for fun times in return. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385653**

JEAN professional nurse attractive and all women! Loves wining and dining seeking white knight who appreciates a real black beauty. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385651**

JAN genuinely attractive voluptuous sensual female looking for companionship with discreet loving man, 35-65yrs. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385597**

JULIE blonde blue eyed outgoing female, 31yrs, seeking laidback relationship with likeminded affectionate male, any age/looks or status. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385595**

RONNIE 39 looking for fun loving bit on the side! Must have a GSOH and own home, I will provide the entertainment! **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385593**

KIM 37, slim blue eyed brunette, divorced with no ties, very discreet, looking for a genuine convenient friendship/more. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384049**

SARA slim tall blonde bombshell, loves dancing, walking in the rain, WLTM genuine male loves life as much as I do. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384047**

IN for a Penny in for a Pound. Gorgeous curvy figured attractive brunette, bubbly, outgoing and fun, looking for confident romantic companion. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383907**

KERRY 32yr old single mum of one, ready to move on with a new relationship, WLTM genuine male for flirty dates, text fun and more. Pls Call. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383901**

JO discreet 28yr old Auburn haired beauty looking for a bit of fun back in her life, seeks male to make me smile again. Age/looks/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383899**

CAROL alone on a Saturday night with a bag of chips, what am I doing? Sick of being single and looking for a male who can handle a good women. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383119**

PETITE French lady, likes to be pampered, seeks sugar daddy, 40-55 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379579**

FEMALE 58, widow, attractive, seeking mature gent, 60 plus with GSOH for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379649**

CAT 37 slim, athletic open minded feline seeks mate 20-45 for good times, laughs and spontaneous fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379563**

LADY young 50's, blonde, green eyes, 5ft 7ins, seeks male with GSOH, good looks for companionship, friendship, with country house or farm. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388548**

MEL tall curvy attractive blonde, loves cosy nights in with a good bottle of wine, looking for some male attention and company. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379971**

MAVE young 73yr old widow, attractive, seeks tall, solvent gent, 65-75 to share good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378799**

LISA 19 curvy brown eyed brunette looking for a fun relationship with caring male up to 67yrs who will appreciate and look after me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374131**

GENUINE racy female with a compassionate side looking for similar man to share lots of laughter and romantic nights in/out, 36-66yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370109**

LOVELY tall slim nurse, very caring and fun but missing that va-va-voom! Seeks adventurous male who's up for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374159**

KAREN 58, 5ft 6ins, medium build, fun loving, romantic, caring, extrovert, seeks male of similar age for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387902**

TALL long haired brunette, slim attractive, big green eyes, WLTM gent for mutual companionship, maybe leading to more. Age/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376559**

ANGELA divorced lady, seeking companion to share days out, cinema, meals etc. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387350**

SUE long blonde haired slim but curvy pretty female, loves to live life to the full, good wine, shopping, seeking genuine male 48-60yrs for adult friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380853**

WARM hearted woman, 48, seeks man with GSOH, late 40's to early 50's. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380277**

JULIE attractive blonde with strong family values seeking Mr Right. If you have a GSOH and are loving, pls reply. Age/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384041**

CHAR 19yr old curvy blue eyed petite blonde with cheeky SOH, very lonely and looking for mature male for adult fun/texts. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383895**

SARAH 29yr old slim brunette with many interests seeks sincere male, 28-40yrs for fun times and more. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382161**

STEFF 32, slim, hazel eyes, long hair, curvy size 10, likes cosying up, cuddles, tickles, sick of being lonely and bored, not looking for complications just love. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382159**

SHARON
5ft 7ins, slim blonde, attractive, funny, good job, nice home, sports car, well educated/travelled, newly single and looking for love. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383113**

ERIN attractive petite divorcee with own home, looking for nights in/out, friendship and maybe more with mature male. Looks/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383111**

ALEX attractive professional, separated, no ties, OHAC, seeks similar romantic male for love, companionship and more. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383049**

SHARON 33, slim blonde, blue eyes outgoing, attractive, looking to put some much needed fun back into life, seeks male 30-45yrs. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383047**

Men Seeking

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STEVE tall businessman, late 40's, GSOH, seeks slim female, any age for discreet fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389958**

BUSINESSMAN 63, 6ft, slim, OHAC, seeks young Oriental woman, N/S, no ties for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383603**

DEAN 6ft, brown hair/eyes, clean shaven, seeks female, 18-40. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386773**

GENT 60, widower, kind, caring, GSOH, sincere, solvent, varied interests, WLTM lady for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384721**

SIMON 53, N/S, OHAC, understanding, reliable, seeks female 35-60 for company, possible romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384521**

MALE 56, tall, slim, N/S, up for anything, seeks NS female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385045**

ADE early 40's, 5ft 10ins, medium build, looking for lady for mutual fun and good times together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384495**

TOM 51, likes keep fit, walks, meals out, seeks female of similar age for fun and good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384169**

MALE 51, seeks attractive 40-50's female with GSOH for friendship and TLC. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383851**

ED 57, smart, GSOH, likes cooking, DIY, computer games, travel, looking for female for LTR and to settle down with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383839**

GOOD looking male, seeks female for fun times, leading to possible relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389190**

EDUCATED professional man seeks interesting lady, 60 plus for laughter, good company, conversation and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383549**

TIM 43, tall, slim, looking for female for fun times in and out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389450**

MARK 45, 5ft 10ins, handsome, great physique, intelligent, N/S, seeks discreet passionate female, younger or older for coffee mornings. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389438**

SLIM businessman, well groomed, seeks assertive, stylish lady for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389434**

MALE 51, slim-medium build, likes cars, motorbikes, golf, seeks similar female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389564**

ROMANTIC handsome, professional male, 47, beautiful home, excellent lifestyle, seeks attractive lady to cherish and protect from life's adversities. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389690**

CARING slim male, 51, dark hair, seeks female, 47-55. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389876**

SINGLE guy 46, 5ft 10ins, blond, blue eyes, seeks younger, slimmish female for adult fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389872**

OUTGOING loving, caring male, likes fun times, seeks similar female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389864**

CHRIS 61, loves animals, travel, cooking, seeks female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389818**

STEVE 56, looking for fun with female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389798**

SINGLE male, mature, WLTM slim, petite lady, 40-65 for adventurous relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386455**

42YR old male, seeking slim, attractive female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386341**

ME 56 fit, broadminded, easygoing, seeks lady, 50-68 who wants all action man for friend. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384899**

NIGEL 61, fit, likes cinema, theatre, music, outdoors, seeks female, 30-50 for friendship and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389610**

MARK 6ft, slim-medium build, brown hair, blue eyes, seeks female for dates, good times and maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385981**

COUNTRY loving male, 60, retired slave, likes gardening, DIY, scrabble, needs regular weekend training. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389676**

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SMALL N/S male, early 50's, seeks larger older male for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388386**

RICHARD 38, ex model, passive, likes horses, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379097**

BI guy submissive, late 40's, slim, seeks older dominant guy to yield to. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389256**

33YR old bi male, seeking discreet male of similar age for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389236**

SUB bi guy 59, well built, seeks male for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389106**

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FIAT PANDA PREVIEW

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Image: ★★★
Space: ★★★★★
Value: ★★★★★
Running costs: ★★★★★
Reliability: ★★★★★
How green?: ★★★★
Best rival: VW Up

Fiat panders to the past as old favourite continues its journey

NEW Pandas are usually a cause to rejoice.

Zoos can always expect a flood of new visitors and, in the case of Fiat's third generation Fiat Panda (from £8,900), dealers can also expect increased footfall.

But just as their bear-like namesakes remain familiar in black and white, so would-be Panda car buyers may be glad that little has changed from the 2004-12 generation.

The wheelbase and general look are unaltered with only marginal increases in overall dimensions, though it is roomier and looks cuddlier with its more rounded aerodynamic lines.

Nevertheless, the Italian marque's mantra appears to have been closer to that Anglo-Saxon one: "Don't fix it if it ain't broke".

And Fiat will hope and expect its little star to adhere to that in another way by being as bulletproof as the previous car.

I had anecdotal proof of this some years ago while holidaying on a Greek isle. The roads were as flaky as the national economy now clearly is, but my little Daihatsu Charade hire car coped admirably.

But when I returned it and praised its ability in such trying conditions, the Brit running the hire car site, told me: "Yeah, Japanese stuff is good, but the Fiat Pandas are our favourite – they go on forever."

Fiat will hope the new car does too, but is taking a chance by moving production away from the Panda's long-standing production site in Poland and back home to a refurbished and highly-automated plant near Naples.

It will also hope the newcomer defies pigeonholing in the market place; while something of a Marmite motor – people either loved or hated the old car – but those who loved it come from all walks of life and age groups.

Along with the cuddlier style though, making the car available with Fiat's incredible 875cc TwinAir Turbo petrol engine (from £9,400), should boost the new car's youth appeal.

This engine has given the hugely successful Fiat 500 extra market clout, by offering zest with eco appeal. It should do the same for the Panda. The output is 85bhp and, driven sensibly, an average near 70mpg should be possible while CO_2 emissions below 100 g/km make it road tax exempt.

However, the temptation to rev the little twin-cylinder turbo and twirl the gearbox, may dent eco aspirations, making the venerable four-cylinder entry level 69bhp 1.2-litre petrol engine, a more sensible choice.

There is a frugal 75bhp 1.3 MultiJet diesel offered too, but it starts at £11,100 and, as ever at this end of the market, I wonder if the first owner would ever cover the mileage needed to recoup the extra money spent upfront.

The TwinAir and the diesel both feature a stop-start system to cut and re-fire the engine automatically in busy traffic.

SMALL BUT PERFECTLY FORMED: At first glance, Fiat's third incarnation of its popular Panda looks the same as early models, but this now comes with the carmaker's incredible TwinAir Turbo petrol engine, which gives it an eco boost

DON'T LIKE

...much. Some might say the styling could have been updated more, but the Panda always was distinctive and it is once again.

NOT SURE

...it will have its 'tiny but roomy' market segment to itself for long. The VW Up, Seat Mii and Skoda Citigo sisters are due soon.

REALLY LIKE

...how Fiat has recaptured the essence of the hugely successful 2004 Panda, while taking the car forward.

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Jaguar is roaring back... louder and greener than ever before

By Sam Davison
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

IT'S right that Jaguar has emerged from the doldrums by once again showing the innovation that made the British performance marque great.

For so long fettered by what I call 'trad Jag' thinking – following styles and regimes from the glory days, which failed to sell in modern times – the big cat is back with a range far removed from what's gone before.

The XF and XJ saloons have got the brand roaring again.

But just as looks and design have played a key part, so market pragmatism in the form of diesel power has been the company's salvation – something Jaguar traditionalists can squabble about, but cannot deny.

First we had the creamy 275bhp 3.0-litre V6 diesel – an engine that surely would have pleased Jag founder Sir William Lyons – and now we have the latest four-cylinder 2.2-litre.

"Four-cylinder!" you can hear the old Jag duffers explode over their G'n'Ts, but brands like BMW, Audi and Mercedes-Benz have dieselled their way into Jaguar's old market and sales by churning out diesel executive motors with four-pot diesels.

Smooth straight and V6 petrol engines and even V8 may power the German brands' halo cars – the ones that grab space in fancy motor mags and on telly – but sales of big mileage, high economy diesel fours tot up volume and profits.

And Jaguar aims to snatch that back with the four-cylinder 2.2 diesel version of the XF, targeting the Audi A6, BMW 5-Series and Merc E-Class.

First there was a 190ps (188bhp) version – the one tested here – but Jaguar also launched a 163ps (161bhp) 'cooking' version last month to offer company car user choosers more choice and a new sub-30 grand entry price for the XF range – £29,950.

JAGUAR XF 2.2 DIESEL PORTFOLIO : PRICE £43,050

PICTURE PURRFECT: For Jaguar traditionalists the thought of the big cat with a diesel engine must fill them with horror, but it is a sign of the times that the company has taken green issues on board and still delivered a car that delivers on all fronts

FACT FILE

Image:	★★★★★
Space:	★★★★
Value:	★★★★
Reliability:	★★★★★
How green?:	★★★★
Road tax:	£130
Best rival:	BMW 5-Series

Kent dealers:
Barretts Jaguar
Ashford 01233 506080
Canterbury 01227 864400
Guy Salmon
Maidstone 01622 797700

Admittedly, our test car is a big cat's leap up from there at £43,050 – it's the 190ps model in flagship Portfolio trim.

But one of the things immediately obvious on an XF, especially after a major range facelift last year, is how all models maintain an air of luxury.

Get this wrong and the cheap models don't live up to brand image, while no amount of toys on top end models can make them seem worth the cash if accompanying standard trim is too downmarket.

The XF avoids that trap by being generously specc'd from the off and looking and feeling good inside; hit the start button and the closed air vents in the alloy facia sigh open and the chunky auto gearbox selector knob rises from the centre console – pure class.

Needless to say, everything also feels well made and screwed together – German executive marques have a fight on their hands these days.

The Ford/Peugeot derived engine cannot seem as smooth as the already familiar V6 diesel, but it's a nice piece of work and the eight-speed automatic 'box allows seamless shifting whether in fully auto or when using the highly effective manual change paddles on the steering wheel.

Ride and handling is up to the usual high Jaguar standard – the best of both worlds – even when the car is driven aggressively.

Selecting Sport mode will give you faster auto changes and weight up the steering slightly.

Driven sensibly though and it should deliver an average over 50mpg, but I wanted to test it across the board, leading to the car's computer recording average consumption in the mid-40s – still not bad.

For me though, it's the Jag's overall sense of well-being that wins on top of the relative eco-friendliness; the re-worked front end is particularly stylish and I liked the truncated boomerang LED lighting that part-frames the main headlamps.

Jaguar really is back.

First GEAR

MOTORING NEWS

Don't just take our word for it

SUZUKI'S incredible Swift Sport earned a rave review in last week's paper and has now picked up a major award.

The newly-arrived Swift performance flagship was dubbed 'Best Hot Hatchback' at the influential Carbuyer.co.uk awards.

The judges liked its handling, sparkling performance from the 1.6-litre turbocharged engine, economy and an affordable £13,499 price tag.

Cruze gets an estate version

IT'S no surprise Chevrolet will complement it good-looking Cruze middleweight saloon and hatchback models by launching a smart yet practical estate later this year.

Not surprisingly, the American value brand is calling this new spin-off, the Cruze Station Wagon. Slightly longer than its sisters, it will offer generous cargo space.

Full UK spec and prices to come later.

Avensis goes off the scale

PROOF arrived this week that Toyota has created an economy star company car.

A frugal 2.0-litre D-4D Avensis Tourer – also reviewed in this issue – has been driven from Lands End to John O'Groats on one tank of diesel by writers from Banzai magazine, thereby averaging 71.5mpg over 904.9 miles – 425 miles more than the range predicted by the car's onboard computer.

New Panda.

A snazzy little number for little monthly numbers.

Representative example

Fiat Panda 1.2 POP

Price	£8,900	47 Monthly Payments	£99
Customer Deposit	£2,170	Optional Final Payment (inc option fee of £285)	£2,957
Fiat Deposit Contribution	£500	Total Amount Payable by customer	£9,780
Amount of Credit	£6,230	Rate of Interest (Fixed)	6.24%
Duration of Contract	48 Months	Representative 7.7% APR	

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Fiat, the car brand with the lowest average CO_2 emissions in Europe†. Fuel consumption figures for the Fiat Panda 1.2 Pop in mpg (l/100km): Urban 42.2 (6.7); Extra Urban 65.7 (4.3); Combined 54.3 (5.2). CO_2 emissions 120 g/km. Terms & Conditions apply. Retail customers only. Not available in conjunction with any other offer. With Fiat i-Deal you have the option to return the vehicle and not pay the final payment, subject to the vehicle not having exceeded an agreed annual mileage (A charge of 6p per mile for exceeding 6,000 miles per annum in this example) and being in good condition. Offer subject to status. A guarantee or indemnity may be required. Fiat Financial Services, PO Box 4465, Slough SL1 0RW. We work with a number of creditors to provide finance to our customers, including Fiat Financial Services. March 2012 offer. Fiat Deposit Contribution available on Fiat Panda 1.2 Pop, and is only available in conjunction with Fiat i-Deal Low Cost. Prices correct at time of printing. Offer may be varied and withdrawn at any time. Subject to availability. †Source: JATO Dynamics. Based on volume-weighted average CO_2 emissions (g/km) of the best selling brands in Europe, year 2010.

CANNON STREET CAR SALES

Cannon Street, Deal, Kent CT14 6QA - 01304 372872 OR 07779 511016

2002 (52) MERCEDES C180 KOMPRESSOR SE Auto metallic blue, 2 owners from new with service history, all usual extras, 1796cc petrol engine with automatic transmission **£2,795**

2000 (W) JAGUAR S-TYPE 4 door Auto Saloon metallic silver, exceptionally low mileage with every conceivable extra including sat nav, possibly the nicest example available locally, 3996cc petrol engine with automatic transmission **£2,495**

2003 (03) FORD FOCUS ZETEC 5 door Hatchback metallic silver, 2 owners from new with service history and all usual extras. Nice example with a 1596 cc petrol engine with manual transmission **£1,995**

2001 (Y) LANDROVER FREELANDER ES with all usual extras, well serviced vehicle with leather interior, 1798cc petrol engine with manual transmission **£1,995**

2001 (Y) SAAB 9-3 SE Turbo Convertible black 2 owners from new with a host of extras including leather interior and electric roof 1985cc petrol engine with manual transmission **£1,895**

2002 (02) MICRA Automatic 5 door Hatchback, 2 owners, from new with all usual extras, 998cc, petrol, engine, with rare automati transmission **£1,695**

2000 (V) FORD FOCUS LX 5 door Hatchback, Light metallic green, one lady owner, from new, with services history amd all usual extras, 1796cc, petrol engine with manual transmission **£1,195**

2001 (Y) CITROEN XSARA LX metallic blue, 5 door hatchback with service history and all usual extras, nice example with a 1597cc petrol engine with manual transmission **£995**

1995 (M) TOYOTA LEXUS GS 300 4 door Saloon metallic silver, 2 previous owners from new with main dealer service history. Every conceivable extra. 2954 cc petrol engine with automatic transmission **£995**

1999 (T) MGF CONVERTIBLE metallic blue, with all usual extras, part exchange to clear, with a 1597cc petrol engine with manual transmission **£895**

1998 (S) BMW 318Ti 3 door Hatchback metallic grey with all usual extras, 2 lady owners from new, part exchange to clear, 1895cc petrol engine with manual transmission **£895**

2000 (W) FORD MONDEO LX Automatic 5 Door Hatchback, light metallic green, 2 owners, from new with all usual extras, 18bbcc, petrol engine, WT, automatic transmission **£795**

2000 (X) KIA CLARUS Executive 4 door Saloon black, with all usual extras, 1998cc petrol engine with automatic transmission **£695**

2001 (Y) PEUGEOT 206 LX diesel 3 door Hatchback, Metallic silver, 1 owner, from new with all usual extras, 1868cc, diesel, engine, with manual transmission **£795**

1998 (R) VAUXHALL VECTRA LS 5 door Hatchback, metallic silver, ,with all usual extras, 1798cc petrol, engine with manual transmission **£595**

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MOTORING

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Subtle changes move Avensis forwards

By Sam Davison
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

NOT so long ago, company car man could wrap himself in the Union Jack and happily order a Dagenham-built Ford Cortina for his next rep-mobile. Fast-forward, though, and we find that Ford now makes all of its cars abroad.

Indeed, if you want to be patriotic with your car order now then you must look mainly to the UK plants of Toyota, Honda and Nissan.

And if it's a modern day Cortina equivalent you need, then Toyota's Avensis it has to be and that's no bad thing if – dare we say it? – an unfashionably patriotic heart has helped make the choice, because the head will note there's not much to dislike about Toyota's company car star.

And that's even more true after its 2012 midlife upgrade, adding many new features, without hiking prices.

The new-look range of saloons and estates, built at the marque's ultra-modern and number one European plant at Burnaston starts at £18,450 and is comfortably the most stylish of the three Avensis generations built so far at this Derbyshire site.

CHANGING FACE: Toyota has added many new features to the Avensis without hiking the price... good news for a car that might not have the glamour of a premium executive model but handles well and is relaxing to drive

The cosmetic changes are minor, but make the car more sharply defined, and I can confirm Toyota's claims to have made the big high quality cabin even quieter and more comfortable.

Not that the powertrains are rough and ragged; Toyota has been a leader in re-thinking the internal combustion engine and delivering the apparently contradictory benefits of greater power and performance with better economy and lower emissions.

Nowhere is this illustrated better than in the top-selling 124bhp 2.0-litre D-4D diesel engine fitted to our £22,560 Avensis Tourer TR (estate) test car. It's been around a while, but further fettling has reduced CO_2 emissions to 119g/km, which translates into zero road tax in year one and £30 a year thereafter, plus a fuel consumption average around 60mpg – figures that put many smaller engine superminis to shame.

Not surprisingly, this also makes it the most efficient in terms of company car Benefit in Kind taxation (13 per cent) within an Avensis line-up that is impressive anyway.

And it's not as if you give up much for this saintly performance; the Avensis may not have the glamour of a premium executive model, but it handles well and is relaxing to drive, with the promise that everything will work for a long time – a five-year/100,000-mile warranty is there as a back stop anyway.

The durability of the well-arranged cabin is also beyond reproach and, in the case of the Tourer – which narrowly outsells its saloon alternative – is also highly practical with a decent cargo area once the rear seats are flattened.

Another major draw for company users is Toyota's impressive Touch and Go series of multimedia, navigation and information packs – these include email integration as standard on flagship T Spirit Avensis models.

TOYOTA AVENSIS 2.0D TR TOURER

Price: £22,560
Image: ★★★
Space: ★★★★★
Value: ★★★★★
Reliability: ★★★★★
How green?: ★★★★
Road tax: £30 (zero year one)
Best rival: Maxda6

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Golf Hatchback 2.0 GT FSI 3dr

Period of Hire 35 Mths

12.0% APR

Period of Hire	35 months
35 monthly payments of	£219.35
Deposit	£250.00
Retail cash price	£6,950.00
Acceptance fee*	£149.00
Option to purchase fee**	£60.00
Total amount payable	£8,136.25
Amount of credit	£6,700.00
Representative APR	12.0%
Rate of Interest	9.72% fixed

Nissan Qashqai Hatchback 2.0 Visia 5dr

Period of Hire 48 Mths

10.9% APR

Period of Hire	48 months
48 monthly payments of	£225.00
Deposit	£1,000.00
Retail cash price	£10,000.00
Acceptance fee*	£149.00
Option to purchase fee**	£60.00
Total amount payable	£12,009.00
Amount of credit	£9,000.00
Representative APR	10.9%
Rate of Interest	9.64% fixed

Citroen C2 Diesel Hatchback 1.4 HDi VTR 3dr

Period of Hire 34 Mths

11.7% APR

Period of Hire	34 months
34 monthly payments of	£99.00
Deposit	£1,424.74
Retail cash price	£6,500.00
Acceptance fee*	£169.00
Option to purchase fee**	£79.00
Total amount payable	£7,772.04
Amount of credit	£5,075.26
Representative APR	11.7%
Rate of Interest	9.22% fixed

Vectra Diesel Hatchback 1.9 CDTI Design (150)

Period of Hire 48 Mths

11.5% APR

Period of Hire	48 months
35 monthly payments of	£150.00
Deposit	£500.00
Retail cash price	£6,500.00
Acceptance fee*	£149.00
Option to purchase fee**	£60.00
Total amount payable	£7,909.00
Amount of credit	£6,000.00
Representative APR	11.5%
Rate of Interest	9.64% fixed

Toyota Auris Diesel Hatchback 2.0 D-4D T Spirit 5dr

Period of Hire 48 Mths

11.0% APR

Period of Hire	48 months
48 monthly payments of	£198.75
Deposit	£500.00
Retail cash price	£8,450.00
Acceptance fee*	£149.00
Option to purchase fee**	£60.00
Total amount payable	£10,249.00
Amount of credit	£7,950.00
Representative APR	11.0%
Rate of Interest	9.64% fixed

Ford Galaxy Diesel Estate 2.0 TDCi Ghia 5dr Auto

Period of Hire 38 Mths

10.2% APR

Period of Hire	38 months
37 monthly payments of	£239.00
Deposit	£2,169.09
Retail cash price	£14,000.00
Acceptance fee*	£169.00
Option to purchase fee**	£79.00
Total amount payable	£16,751.19
Amount of credit	£11,830.91
Representative APR	10.2%
Rate of Interest	9.20% fixed

Land Rover Freelander 2 Diesel 2.2 Td4 XS 5dr Auto

Period of Hire 48 Mths

9.4% APR

Period of Hire	48 months
48 monthly payments of	£424.50
Deposit	£1,900.00
Retail cash price	£19,000.00
Acceptance fee*	£169.00
Option to purchase fee**	£79.00
Total amount payable	£22,355.00
Amount of credit	£17,100.00
Representative APR	9.4%
Rate of Interest	8.69% fixed

Audi Q7 Diesel Estate 3.0 TDI Quattro SE 5dr Tip Auto

Period of Hire 48 Mths

9.9% APR

Period of Hire	48 months
48 monthly payments of	£259.00
Deposit	£10,132.24
Retail cash price	£20,500.00
Acceptance fee*	£169.00
Option to purchase fee**	£79.00
Total amount payable	£22,643.24
Amount of credit	£10,367.76
Representative APR	9.9%
Rate of Interest	8.69% fixed

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Reg	Description	Colour	Mileage	Price
09 09	Volkswagen Fox 1.2	Black	14,650	£5,950
10 10	Volkswagen Fox 1.2 Urban	Black	14,300	£6,000
08 08	Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 16V Club 5-Door Hatchback	Silver	4,050	£6,000
07 57	Vauxhall Vectra 1.9 CDTi 16v Design (150 PS) 5-Dr	Silver	51,190	£6,500
09 09	Citroen C2 1.4 HDi VTR 3-Dr Hatchback	Green	14,300	£6,500
04 04	Volkswagen Golf 2.0 FSI GT	Black	44,720	£6,950
10 60	Volkswagen Fox 1.4 Urban	Red	10,500	£6,950
07 07	Honda Accord 2.0i VTEC SE Saloon	Silver	30,000	£6,950
09 09	Smart ForTwo 1.0 Passion 2-Door Cabriolet	Blue	4,700	£7,000
09 58	Peugeot 207 SW 1.6 HDi 90 Sport	Lunar	51,000	£7,000
09 09	Vauxhall Tigra 1.4i 16v Exclusiv 2-Door Cabriolet	Black	30,500	£7,000
10 10	Vauxhall Meriva 1.6 16v Club 5-Door MPV	Lancelot	22,750	£7,000
11 11	Hyundai i20 1.2 Classic 5-Door Hatchback	Black	12,370	£7,000
07 57	Volkswagen Polo 1.4 S TDI (70 PS) 5-Dr	Black	44,300	£7,000
06 56	Honda Civic 2.2 i-CTDi SE 5-Door	Black	63,250	£7,450
07 07	Mazda 5 2.0D Sport 5-Door MPV	Grey	49,780	£7,500
08 58	Renault Clio 1.5 dCi 86 Dynamique 3-Dr Hatchback	Platinum	33,900	£7,500
09 59	Smart ForTwo 0.8 cdi (54BHP) Pulse 2-Door Cab	Black	21,500	£7,500
08 58	Ford Focus 1.6 Zetec 5-Door Hatchback	Silver	30,990	£7,500
07 57	Vauxhall Astra 1.6T SRi Sport 16v 3-Door Hatchback	Red	65,890	£7,500
08 08	Vauxhall Vectra 1.9 CDTi 16v (150PS) Design 5-Dr Est	Blue	37,140	£7,500
10 59	Ford Fiesta 1.25 Zetec (82 PS) 3-Door Hatchback	Avalon	7,810	£7,500
08 58	Toyota Yaris 1.3 VVT-i T Spirit 5-Dr	Black	33,305	£7,500
09 59	SEAT Ibiza SC 1.6 16V 105PS Sport 3-Door	Red	13,000	£7,500
08 58	Volkswagen Polo 1.2 Match (70 PS) 5-Dr	Silver	17,997	£7,650
10 60	Volkswagen Polo 1.2 S (60 PS)	Red	16,595	£7,950
06 56	BMW 1 Series 1.6 116i ES 5-Dr Hatchback	Red	47,268	£8,000
08 08	Skoda Fabia 3 1.4 TDI PD (80 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback	Black	44,900	£8,000
08 08	Ford Mondeo 2.0 Titanium 5-Door Hatchback	Black	51,675	£8,000
08 57	Vauxhall Vectra 1.9 CDTi 16v (150PS) Elite 5-Door Est	Silver	53,720	£8,000
09 09	Vauxhall Insignia 1.8i 16v VVT Exclusiv 5-Dr Hatch	Silver	35,150	£8,000
08 08	Alfa Romeo 147 1.9 JTDM Sport Q2 3-Door Hatchback	Grey	30,300	£8,000
07 57	Toyota Avensis 2.0 D-4D T3-S 5-Dr	Silver	50,770	£8,000
09 58	Ford Fiesta 1.25 Zetec (82 PS) 3-Door Hatchback	Avalon	28,200	£8,000
09 09	Peugeot 207 SW 1.6 HDi 90 S	Blue	47,465	£8,000
07 57	Jeep Cherokee 2.8 CRD Sport	Blue	55,100	£8,000
10 60	Volkswagen Polo 1.2 S (60 PS)	Black	5,500	£8,000
08 08	SEAT Altea XL 2.0 TDI Stylance 5-Door MPV	Red	56,790	£8,000
08 58	Mazda 6 1.8 TS 5-Door Hatchback	Blue	30,935	£8,000
08 58	Mazda 6 2.0TD TS 5-Door Estate	Silver	61,720	£8,000
08 08	SEAT Altea 1.9 TDI Reference 5-Door MPV	Red	24,655	£8,000
11 11	Volkswagen Polo 1.2 S A/C (60 PS) 5-Dr	Silver	11,375	£8,450
11 11	Volkswagen Polo 1.2 S A/C (60 PS) 5-Dr	Black	9,195	£8,450
07 07	Volkswagen Passat 2.0 TDI SE (140 PS)	Silver	57,700	£8,450

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11 11	Volkswagen Polo 1.2 S A/C (60 PS) 5-Dr	Black	9,095	£8,450
09 58	Toyota Auris 2.0 D-4D T Spirit 5-Dr	Blue	45,835	£8,450
10 60	Volkswagen Polo 1.2 S A/C (70 PS)	Red	17,300	£8,450
06 06	Honda Civic 2.2 i-CTDi ES 5-Door	Silver	32,350	£8,450
08 58	Toyota Verso 2.2 D-4D SR 5-Dr	Silver	33,450	£9,000
09 09	Volvo S40 2.0 D SE 4-Door Saloon	Blue	76,150	£9,000
09 59	Citroen C4 1.6 HDi 16v VTR Plus 5-Door Hatchback	Silver	8,000	£9,000
08 57	Renault Clio 2.0 VVT Renaultsport 197 3-Dr Hatch	Red	7,520	£9,000
10 60	Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 16V SE 5-Door Hatchback	Black	12,600	£9,000
09 09	Volkswagen Golf Plus 1.9 TDI Luna (90 PS)	Blue	34,895	£9,450
10 10	Volkswagen Polo 1.4 SE (85 PS)	Red	21,150	£9,450
10 10	Honda Jazz 1.4 i-VTEC EX 5-Door	Red	32,000	£9,450
08 58	Toyota Avensis 2.2 D-4D T180 5-Dr	Silver	54,250	£9,495
09 59	Volkswagen Golf 1.4 S (80 PS) 5-Dr	Silver	32,050	£9,650
10 60	Volkswagen Polo 1.2 SE (60 PS) 5-Dr	Grey	11,475	£9,950
11 60	Honda Jazz 1.2 i-VTEC Si 5-Door	Black	9,500	£9,950
11 60	Honda Jazz 1.2 i-VTEC Si 5-Door	Black	9,000	£9,950
10 59	Ford Fiesta 1.6 Zetec-S (120 PS) 3-Door Hatch	White	16,200	£10,000
08 58	SAAB 9-3 VECTOR Sport 1.9 TiD 150 ANNIV 4 Dr	Grey	20,145	£10,000
09 59	Fiat 500 1.2 LOUNGE 3-Door Hatchback	White	4,835	£10,000
08 08	Volkswagen Passat 2.0 TDI SE (140 PS) DSG	Silver	52,000	£10,000
07 07	Nissan Qashqai 2.0 Visia 2WD 5-Door Hatchback	Blue	29,660	£10,000
10 10	Mazda 3 1.6 Tamura 5-Door Hatchback	Grey	24,642	£10,000
07 57	Mini Cooper S 1.6 (175BHP) 3-Door Hatchback	Grey	25,780	£10,000
06 06	Hyundai Santa FE 2.2 CRTD CDX 5-Door	Gun Metal	75,040	£10,000
09 58	Volkswagen Golf 2.0 TDI DPF Sportline Est	Black	66,140	£10,000
11 11	Volkswagen Polo 1.2 (60PS) Match	Black	4,500	£10,450
10 10	Volkswagen Polo 1.4 SE (85 PS) 5-Dr	Red	1,940	£10,450
10 10	Volkswagen Polo 1.4 SE (85 PS) DSG 5-Dr	Silver	9,520	£10,950
10 60	Honda Jazz 1.4 i-VTEC EX 5-Door	Blue	10,950	£10,950
10 60	Honda Civic 1.4 i-VTEC Si 5-Door	Red	7,750	£10,950
09 58	Vauxhall Insignia 2.0 CDTi 16v (160PS) SRi 5-Dr	Black	29,395	£11,000
09 59	Volkswagen Passat 2.0 TDI CR Highline (110 PS)	Black	46,500	£11,450
08 08	Volkswagen Passat 2.0 TDI CR Highline (140 PS) DSG	Silver	39,211	£11,450
07 07	Honda CR-V 2.0 i-VTEC ES 5-Door	Grey	47,844	£11,450
10 10	Vauxhall Insignia 2.0 CDTi 16v (160PS) SRi Sports Tourer	Silver	45,585	£11,500
11 11	Volkswagen Polo 1.4 SE (85 PS) DSG	Grey	5,200	£11,950
10 10	Honda Insight 1.3 IMA SE 5-Door Hatchback	Metal	7,000	£11,950
08 08	Honda CR-V 2.2 i-CTDi SE 5-Door	Black	53,450	£11,950
08 58	BMW 1 Series 2.0 118i M Sport (143 BHP) 5-Dr Hatch	Grey	35,200	£12,000
09 09	Mini Clubman 1.6 Cooper S 5-Door Estate	Silver	24,750	£12,000
08 08	Volvo V50 2.0 D Sport (R-Design) 5-Door Estate	Blue	46,825	£12,000
07 57	Audi A4 2.0 TDI (140 PS) S-Line	Silver	40,550	£12,450
11 60	Volkswagen Golf Plus 1.6 TDi S (105 PS)	Black	12,800	£12,450
08 08	Chevrolet Captiva 2.0 CDTi LTX 7 Seat 5-Door	Green	43,898	£12,450

Reg	Description	Colour	Mileage	Price
08 08	Audi A3 Sportback 2.0 TDi S Tronic	Grey	38,000	£12,950
09 59	Volkswagen Golf 1.6 TDI BlueMotion SE (105 PS) 5-Dr	Black	23,950	£13,450
09 09	Volkswagen Golf 2.0 TDI GT (140 PS) 5-Dr	Black	43,700	£13,450
09 59	Volkswagen Golf 2.0 TDI GT (140 PS)	Silver	38,046	£13,950
11 11	Volkswagen Touran 1.6 TDi S (105 PS)	Silver	14,450	£13,950
10 10	Volkswagen Golf 1.6 TDI SE (105 PS) 5-Dr	Red	19,000	£13,950
11 60	Honda Jazz Hybrid 1.3 IMA HS 5-Door	Blue	6,500	£13,950
09 59	Ford Galaxy 2.0 TDCi Ghia (140 PS) 5-Door MPV	Silver	40,945	£14,000
09 09	Audi A3 Sportback 1.9 TDIe	Black	26,340	£14,000
10 10	Honda Civic 1.8 i-VTEC EX GT 5-Door	Black	18,500	£14,450
11 11	Honda Jazz Hybrid 1.3 IMA HS 5-Door	Green	9,500	£14,450
07 57	Mercedes-Benz CLK 3.0 320 CDI Sport 2-Dr Coupe	Silver	23,700	£14,500
11 11	Volkswagen Jetta 1.6 TDi S BlueMotion 4-Dr Saloon	Grey	19,000	£14,950
10 10	Volkswagen Golf 2.0 TDI SE (140 PS) Estate	Silver	19,827	£14,950
11 11	Volkswagen Polo 1.4 SEL (85 PS) DSG	Grey	3,700	£14,950
10 10	Volkswagen Passat 2.0 TDI Highline Plus (140 PS)	Silver	12,000	£14,950
08 08	Honda CR-V 2.0 i-VTEC ES 5-Door	Black	44,280	£14,950
11 11	Honda Insight 1.3 IMA EX 5-Door	Metal	8,500	£14,950
11 61	Honda Jazz 1.4 i-VTEC EX 5-Door	Black	5,000	£14,950
11 11	Volkswagen Golf 1.6 TDI Match (105 PS) 5-Dr	Black	13,725	£15,450
09 09	Volkswagen Passat CC 2.0 TDI (140 PS) GT DSG	Silver	37,477	£15,450
08 57	Honda CR-V 2.2 i-CTDi EX 5-Door	Black	54,150	£15,950
11 61	Honda CR-Z 1.5 IMA S 3-Door	Grey	5	£15,950
11 11	Honda CR-Z 1.5 IMA Sport 3-Door	Silver	10,000	£15,950
10 60	Volkswagen Golf 2.0 TDI GT (140 PS) 5-Dr	Silver	25,945	£16,450
11 60	Volkswagen Polo 1.4 TSI GTI (180 PS) DSG	Silver	6,000	£16,450
11 11	Volkswagen Jetta 2.0 TDI SE DSG 4-Dr Saloon	Silver	9,000	£16,950
10 60	Volkswagen Passat Estate 2.0 TDI Highline Plus (140 PS)	Black	18,895	£16,950
11 11	Nissan Qashqai 1.5 dCi n-tec 2WD 5-Door Hatchback	Black	7,890	£18,000
11 61	Volkswagen Touran 1.6 TDI SE (105 PS)	Blue	3,000	£18,450
11 60	Volkswagen Eos 2.0 TDI SE BlueMotion Cabriolet	Black	12,125	£18,450
11 61	Honda Insight 1.3 IMA ES 5-Door	Red	4,000	£18,950
10 10	Honda CR-V 2.0 i-VTEC ES-T 5-Door	Metal	8,500	£18,950
11 61	Honda CR-Z 1.5 IMA Sport 3-Door	White	5,000	£18,950
08 58	Land Rover Freelander 2 2.2 Td4 XS 5-Door	Black	29,464	£19,000
07 07	Audi Q7 3.0 TDI quattro SE	Grey	44,155	£20,500
11 61	Volkswagen Golf 1.6 TDI SE BlueMotion (105 PS) Cab	Silver	5,000	£22,450
11 61	Honda CR-V 2.2 i-DTEC SE 5-Door	White	5	£22,950
11 61	Honda Accord 2.2i DTEC ES GT Saloon	Metal	5,000	£23,950
11 11	Honda CR-V 2.2 i-DTEC EX 5-Door	Titanium	14,125	£24,950
11 61	Volkswagen Passat CC 2.0 TDI (170 PS) GT BlueMotion DSG	Black	6,100	£27,950
11 11	Volkswagen Golf 2.0 TDI GTD (170 PS) DSG 5-Dr	White	6,000	£28,950
11 61	Honda CR-V 2.2 i-DTEC EX 5-Door	Metal	6,000	£29,450
11 61	Volkswagen Touareg 3.0 TDI V6 Altitude (245 PS) 5-Dr	Black	6,000	£43,995

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Fuel consumption figures for the Juke KURO range are: URBAN 31.0-47.9mpg (9.1-5.9L/100km), EXTRA URBAN 50.4-65.7mpg (5.6-4.3L/100km), COMBINED 40.9-57.6mpg (6.9-4.9L/100km) CO_2 emissions 159-129g/km.

*Also available with 1.6 117hp and 1.5 dCi 110hp engines. **Actual model shown is Juke KURO 1.6 manual priced at £17,395 in Force Red metallic paint. Nissan Motor (GB) Ltd, The Rivers Office Park, Denham Way, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire WD3 9YS.

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Official Government Test Environmental Data – Fuel Consumption Figures mpg (litres/100km): New Astra SRi hatchback: Urban: 28.5 (9.9) – 60.1 (4.7), Extra-urban: 49.6 (5.7) – 80.7 (3.5), Combined: 39.2 (7.2) – 72.4 (3.9). CO2 emissions 169 – 104g/km.

*Not available on Expression, ES, ES Tech models. **Finance Deposit Allowance not available on Astra GTC. Model shown is New Astra SRi 5dr. Finance provided by Vauxhall Finance, a trading style of GMAC UK plc, PO Box 6666, Cardiff, CF15 7YT. Finance is subject to status, terms and conditions. Applicants must be 18 years or over. Offer applies to private individuals, Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only excluding B2B). All other customers are excluded. Offer available on orders or registrations before 19 December 2011. †Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty covers lifetime ownership of first registered keeper, 100,000 mile limit. Terms and conditions apply.

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Representative example

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Alfa Romeo Deposit Contribution	£1,500.00	Total Amount Payable by Customer	£21,268.00	Rate of Interest (Fixed)	5.14%
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Giulietta

*Model shown Alfa Giulietta 1.6 JTDM-2 105 bhp Lusso at £20,440 includes Ghiaccio White special paint at £490. This is not included with our finance example. Offer valid on selected Alfa Giulietta models. Range of official fuel consumption figures for the Alfa Giulietta range: Urban 26.2 – 53.3 mpg (10.8 – 5.3 l/100km); Extra Urban 48.7 – 76.3 mpg (5.8 – 3.7 l/100km); Combined 37.2 – 64.2 mpg (7.6 – 4.4 l/100km). CO_2 emissions 177 – 114 g/km.

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SAAB 9-3 1.8i, 4 Doors, Manual, Saloon, Petrol, 2005 54 Reg , 85,581 miles, Metallic SILVER, 2 Owners. ABS, Air conditioning, Folding rear seats, Immobiliser, Passenger airbag, Rear armrest, Side airbags, Radio/CD, Rear headrests, Steel wheels, Traction control, 3x3 point rear seat belts, Alarm, Body coloured bumpers, Drivers airbag, Electric door mirrors, Front electric windows, Front head restraints, Heated door mirrors, Isofix child seat anchor points, PAS, Rear electric windows, Remote central locking, Steering wheel reach adjustment, Cloth seat trim, Solid Paint, Steering wheel rake adjustment. Insurance Group:11 ..... **£3,495**

SAAB 9-5 2.3HOT Aero, 4 Doors, Manual, Saloon, Petrol, 2002 02 Reg , 101,420 miles, Black, 3 Owners. ABS, Alloy wheels, Cruise control, Front armrest, Headlight washers, Folding rear seats, Immobiliser, Rear armrest, Radio/Cassette, Side airbags, Radio/CD, Rear headrests, Sports seats, Traction control, Audio remote control, 3x3 point rear seat belts, Alarm, Body coloured bumpers, Electric door mirrors, Front electric windows, Front fog lights, Front head restraints, Heated door mirrors, Isofix child seat anchor points, PAS, Rear electric windows, Remote central locking, Steering wheel rake adjustment, Steering wheel reach adjustment, Trip computer, Height adjustable drivers seat, Reverse parking aid, Electrically adjustable drivers seat, Electrically adjustable passenger seat, Heated front seat. Insurance Group:17 ..... **£2,795**

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Official fuel consumption in mpg (litres/100km) for the Skoda range: Urban 19.2 (14.7) – 68.9 (4.1), Extra Urban 36.2 (7.8) – 94.2 (3.0), Combined 27.7 (10.2) – 83.1 (3.4). CO_2 emissions for the Skoda range 237 – 89g/km.

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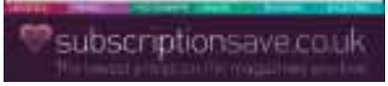

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Kent's Olympic Countdown 27.07.2012

Hockey star eyeing 2012 success but has a far bigger goal for sport post-Olympics

By David Pritchard
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Pictures: ADY KERRY

NATALIE SEYMOUR

- **AGE:** 25
- **HOME CLUB:** Canterbury ladies
- **EVENT:** Hockey
- **CAREER HIGHLIGHT:** World Cup bronze medal, 2010
- **OLYMPIC SELECTION CHANCES:** Probable

FOR all the debate about ticketing systems, traffic plans and the total cost, once London 2012 is over there will be just one definitive yardstick of success – the medals table.

Great Britain have targeted a top four place in the Olympics, at least equalling their surprise success in Beijing four years ago, and second in the Paralympics.

A steady stream of golds would be the best way to silence the critics and inspire the next generation off the sofa and taking part in sport.

To achieve this £300 million has been invested by UK Sport to help national associations improve standards and nurture medal winners.

Few disciplines have had the same level of support as the British hockey squads, who have been cocooned in a centralised training programme for three years – far longer than in preparation for previous Olympics.

One of the group fortunate to have benefitted from the full-time training at Bisham Abbey is Natalie Seymour. The Canterbury ladies defender has gone on to amass more than 60 international caps and is in no doubt over the impact the programme has made.

"When we first started out we were ranked ninth in the world and now we're at fourth. But it's not only that, the fitness levels of the squad and also the approach to hockey in terms of how professional we are and the lifestyle we've chosen to lead, I think it's those things that are making the difference.

"It's the small margins with our nutrition, psychology, strength and conditioning and the amount of time we spend together as a group. The strides we've made as a result of that are plain for everyone to see, both as individuals and as a squad.

"It's thanks to UK Sport lottery funding that we were able to undertake this centralised programme. It's exciting to be involved, we're all doing what we love every single day and not only that, but being full-time is the reason why we've made such big gains."

Over the course of the programme the squad, including Seymour, have become regulars on the podium at major international tournaments, most recently at the Champions Trophy earlier this month. The second-place finish was the team's best at a world level event and provideds an excellent springboard for the summer.

While the amount of resources invested in the squad during the build-up means they will be the best prepared British squad in Olympic history, there is also huge pressure to succeed.

Total funding will almost certainly be slashed for the next Olympic cycle ahead of Rio de Janeiro in 2016, leading to competition between sports to battle over a smaller pool.

FOCUSED: Seymour has benefited from change

Seymour is well aware of the stakes which rest on the performances in front of a home crowd.

She said: "Obviously we've been really keen to leave a legacy of this behind us and we are hoping that post-London there can still be opportunities to do things like that for the sport.

"We feel it's really important the sport continues to grow in this way and changes to this more full-time athlete model.

"We want to make sure that when we go out there we put in the performances that make people stand up and say 'hang on a minute, hockey's great in this country and it needs the support to be able to continue at the level we're able to reach at the moment'."

Whatever happens, the 25-year-old is just concentrating on doing herself justice.

"I've said for the last three years it feels a long way off and it still feels like that even though everything's going so quickly," she said.

"I have to focus on what I'm doing. We all just want to do our all every single day to try and get through it. You can't look too far ahead."

ST LAWRENCE: Challenging times lie ahead for county club

CRICKET

Kent faces "difficult times ahead" as financial figures reveal heavy reliance on ECB 'dividend'

WHEN Kent County Cricket Club announced an operating profit of £188,000 for 2011 in January of this year it seemed to be good news after several years of losses, but a more detailed analysis of honorary treasurer Simon Phillips' report, paints a less optimistic, and more cautious, picture.

While Phillips welcomed a post-tax profit of £379,718 for the year ending on October 31, 2011, he also issued a warning to members.

"Whilst our figures are better this year, difficult times lie ahead, with no shortage of very pessimistic predictions being made for 2012 and beyond," he wrote. "No member should be under the illusion that this year's profits are indicative that we are living in times of plenty."

The report cites nearly £3 million of accumulated losses since 1999, and says: "our position remains very tight, despite this year's better results."

The county received £2.6 million from the ECB, but £786,000 of this was as a direct result of improvements Kent made to facilities and Phillips was anxious to dismiss talk of any bail-out.

He warned members: "The lazy analysis is to see the ECB as a governing body handing out money munificently to keep a dying county structure alive. This is entirely false.

"The vast majority of the money that the ECB generates derives from the international and first class games and as the England team is made up of players from the counties, we are effectively receiving a dividend, not a hand out."

Cricket costs were reduced by six percent (£122,000), meaning Kent have the eighth biggest wage bill of the 18 first class counties.

"We are far from the least resourced county," the report observed.

FOOTBALL

Sampson lends support as Bay close in on Vase glory

By Fred Atkins
sports@kosmedia.co.uk

HERNE Bay manager Simon Halsey said he was struggling to keep his own feet on the ground, let alone his players' after their FA Vase win at Shortwood United on Saturday.

The Bay have been handed a tough draw in the semi-finals of the FA Vase, but Halsey says his side need have no fear of West Auckland.

"They'll be hard, tough opponents, but they'll look at our record, see where we are in our league and that we've won our last two rounds with ten men and hopefully they'll fear us," Halsey said.

The first leg takes place at Winch's Field on Saturday March 24, with the return leg a week later at West Auckland's Darlington Road ground in County Durham, a week later.

West Auckland are currently second in the Northern League, two points behind leaders Sunderland RCA with four games in hand.

They beat Bournemouth 2-0 in Saturday's quarter-final, while Herne Bay's ten men were beating Shortwood.

"We took around 250 people down there and the supporters and players were absolutely unbelievable," Halsey said.

They needed to be, given that Dave Soutan was shown a straight red card for an alleged two-footed tackle after just 44 seconds.

Halsey, unsurprisingly, didn't agree with the decision and was thrown out of the referee's dressing room at half-time when he sought an explanation.

"I can't believe they didn't change their formation," Halsey said. "I think their manager thought they just couldn't get around us.

"Foget whatever you've read elsewhere, we were the better side over 90 minutes and their manager said that on Radio Gloucester," Halsey said.

Halsey also said he has been on the phone to Herne Bay's former manager Tommy Sampson, who won Kent's only FA Vase with Deal in 2000 "every day," to pick his brain.

"Some people have got this idea that he wants to be the only person who's managed a Kent club to a Vase win at Wembley," Halsey said. "It couldn't be further from the truth. He says just believe it can happen and keep the players focused. He's got contacts up there and he's helping us in any way he can. He wants another Kent manager to experience being there."

Picture: IGOR KUPCO

SO CLOSE: Bay's Kent League stars are just two games away from walking out at Wembley Stadium

RUGBY LEAGUE

Saddle up as tickets released for Broncos' Priestfield clash

TICKET details for the visits of rugby league's London Broncos to Gillingham were confirmed this week.

The Broncos will stage a Super League fixture at Priestfield on Sunday, May 20 as part of their 'On the Road' campaign.

Tickets for the clash against Hull FC will cost £10 in advance for adults and just £1 for under-16s accompanied by a full-paying adult.

Prices will hike up by £5 in the week before the game.

Gus Mackay, London Broncos' chief executive, said: "We are delighted to announce these ticket prices as it gives us the best chance to get a strong crowd with plenty of kids along.

"We are really excited about the fixture and look forward to working with Gillingham to make it a success. "

Tickets went on sale from last Monday through the Gills website or via www.londonbroncosrl.com.

Stephen Lowe, commercial director at Gillingham, added: "It's great to be using our facilities for a Super League game, bringing in new fans and families to sample what we have on offer, it is also pleasing to see how encouraged the local people are in having a professional rugby game here in Kent."

The match was announced earlier this month and takes place after the end of the current football season.

INCOMING: Tickets on sale now

CRICKET

Former star Knott makes return to St Lawrence

THE St Lawrence ground will welcome back an old hero on May 3, when the former Kent and England wicket-keeper Alan Knott returns for an evening of cricketing nostalgia.

Now 65, the Belvedere-born Knott, who now lives in Cyprus, will give a talk about his career and then take questions from supporters.

He's also launched a new website - alanknott.co.uk and has opened a Twitter account.

"It certainly brought back many happy memories putting it all together and I am looking forward to giving cricket enthusiasts an opportunity to hear stories of Kent and England, reliving the glories of the past," said. "I look forward to catching up with those who supported me throughout my career."

Knott is widely regarded as one of the best ever wicket-keepers. After making his first-class debut for Kent against Cambridge University at Folkestone in 1964, he played for 21 years.

His England debut came in 1967 against Pakistan and he went on to play 95 Tests, his curtain call coming against Australia at The Oval in 1981.

A famously miserly wicket-keeper who almost never missed a catch or stumping chance, Knott was also a more than useful lower order batsman, whose average in Test matches, 32.75 was actually higher than his overall first-class average of 29.63.

Tickets for the St Lawrence event are available from Jamie Reid on 07866 151151 or by emailing jamie@jamiereid.tv.

VISIT: Knott back to meet the fans

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL FOCUS WITH FRED ATKINS

...in association with no sponsor

ASIDE from the fact it gives teams like Herne Bay and Deal the chance to go to Wembley, one of the best things about the FA Vase is the fact you can call it the FA Vase without an agent of Lucifer - or a silk to give them their alternative title - threatening to sue you for not using the sponsor's name.

Try writing about a major national sporting event without including the name of whichever corporation happens to think it's bankrolling it, and you'll have a lawyer on the phone quicker than you can say "super-injunction".

There is almost no way of doing this without feeling a small part of your soul has died, though Gary Lineker at least gives the impression of being ashamed when he says "Barclays Premier League".

On ESPN, Jon Champion booms the same words, putting so much emphasis on BARR-CLAZE it's as if he's reading the sermon on the mount.

Perhaps he realises just how awful it sounds and is trying a spot of knowing subversion. Or perhaps the man gets such an orgiastic pleasure out of the sound of his own voice that he could read out an advert for Dynorod believing he was Laurence Olivier.

Champion's rival for the title of World's Worst Commentator, Peter Drury, never quite manages to find the right moment in an FA Cup tie to puff tractor racing from Thruxton live on ITV4.

For all their flaws, FIFA and UEFA both realise that naming the World Cup after a sponsor would seriously damage its reputation and instead opt for a visual bombardment of the viewer.

The FA never quite learned this lesson with its flagship competition. Whichever form of "in association with" or "sponsored by" is used it ends up sounding like a desecration of a once-great tournament.

The reason the cup for the Football League's bottom two divisions has never seemed like anything other than a joke is precisely because it's been named after Auto Windscreens or Johnstone's Paint.

The Vase, like the Trophy, has managed to escape this fate despite having title-sponsors, but other non-league competitions aren't always so lucky.

The word Ryman is easier to say than Isthmian but other leagues have titles so cumbersome they become self-defeating.

An official once tried to force me to use all ten component parts of his league's title every time I referred to it in a match report.

If I'd agreed it would've ended up sounding like Colin Boswell on Radio Kent, who always seemed to take an eon just to get through the words Valley Express Kent Youth League, though this, at least, gave you fair warning that you had time to worm the cats while he waded through the results.

Anyway that's all for this week. I'm off to a prize-giving ceremony for the Preparation H Thanet & District 6-a-side League.

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